

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Elections

For Hearing Date: Thursday, April 13, 2023 10:30 AM
or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

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Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

COMMENTS FOR HB 4636 by Orr | et al.

Susan Scruggs
Precinct chair #81 Montgomery County Republican Party
The Woodlands, TX

Vote NO to this bill. Do not give powers of CEC to County Chairs. The CEC is the governing group for the Republican Party at the county level. We do not want powers to be with the County Chair!!!
This is not right.
VOTE NO.

Paul Crowson
I am an elected precinct chair Montgomery County for about 5 years
Conroe, TX

I have been an elected CEC member for about 5 years in Montgomery County Precinct #36. Please vote NO NO NO on this proposal. If this were to pass then every resident in the Great State of Texas will have their election integrity voting rights suppressed. Example in my County of Montgomery there are approximately 400,000 registered voters r. The population is broken down into individual voting precincts, of which there are 115 precincts. Each precinct population votes for the CEC member to represent them. If this bill HB 4636 were to pass then only the County Chair would represent them, taking away the jib of each precinct chair. This would be a backwards move for election integrity in Texas. Sincerely submitted Paul Crowson

Charles Shirley, Mr.
self/real estate investor
Spring, TX

I do not support this bill. It is undemocratic. It puts too much power in the hands of County Chairmen. It should be voted down.

Kevin Formolo
Self
Spring Branch, TX

I am against this centralization of political power. This country was founded on the consent of the governed. Today, amid the onslaught of federal government power grabs, HB 4636 aims to do the same by consolidating power by the party apparatchik at higher levels and away from the grassroots at the precinct. This Connor stand.

Christin Bentley
Republican Party of Texas, SREC SD-1
Flint, TX

I am strongly opposed to HB4636. County chairs should not have the unilateral authority to elect precinct chairs to the CECs. The CECs should have a system with checks and balances, and not a system that allows county chairs to appoint and "stack" precinct chairs for the benefit of the county chair. This is a terrible bill; please vote no.

Marjorie Ross, CRNA
Travis County Republican Precinct #366 Chairman
Spicewood, TX

I see no need or merit for alterations to the procedures currently in place for determining the eligibility of officers and procedural actions of the county executive committee. As a current precinct chair elected and representing the constituents of my neighborhood, I feel it is a great honor to work to uphold THEIR interests and be an accurate spokesperson for THEIR opinions. Therefore, the placement of candidates MUST remain in the hands of the voters, either the voters, or the precinct chairs chosen by those voters (ie, the county executive committee). Thank you for your service !

Roxanne Mills
Self
Conroe, TX

I am unequivocally opposed to this bill, giving all powers to a county chairman. Talk about dictator ship and quickly taking over the current Republican Party from Middle of the road or RINOs. All these Californians and New Yorkers and everyone else coming into the state is quickly going to change our politics anyway. Like they always do get someone in in the position to have total control just like this bill would allow and you'll see it happen very quickly we already have this problem in Montgomery county which used to be the most conservative county in Texas. Unfortunately we have a lot of people moving in that's changing that landscape and we currently have Brian Chris pulling stunts, Trying to hold on to something he never earned. And talk about being a dictator he would be the first please vote against this bill now and forever trash it what Good could possibly come from this bill?

Donna McAleer
Montgomery County Precinct 61
The Woodlands, TX

Vote NO on HB 4636. If this outrageous bill passes, Soros money could be channeled into counties to get their favs elected to the Republican County Chair. Then all would be downhill fast.

It's already happening in Montgomery County, the most conservative county in Texas, the one county that produced 42% of the ENTIRE VOTE IN TEXAS for Senator Ted Cruz, who barely won because of Montgomery County. Otherwise it would have been Beto.

We are one of 40 Texas Counties that are in trouble with their Republican County Chairs at this moment, who are not following their CEC or anyone's bylaws. Why did our thousands of delegates to the 2022 Republican State Convention (of which I attended as a delegate) waste our time in passing Rules in the Rules Committee, if the County Chair just chooses to ignore them and run rogue against the majority vote of the CEC and their bylaws? I guess these rogue County Chairs know this and managed to create HB 4636 via Rep Orr as a means of solidifying total tyrannical control and power, where our bylaws don't have any meaning.

Then the CEC just found out on Sunday, April 9th, that our Montgomery County Republican Headquarters in Conroe was empty — it had been shut down and all furniture and equipment gone. This was after we had spent over \$20,000 in party money and donations last summer to upgrade the headquarters — that our Chairman pushed to get done. In shock, everything was gone including over 50 years of memorabilia — EVEN THOUGH THE RENT WAS PAID THROUGH THE END OF THIS MONTH IN APRIL! We have the paid receipts and treasury filings.

Even more shocking is that there is now evidence that our Chairman lied and told all 7 of our Republican Women's groups and other Republican groups that we "lost" our headquarters because the rent had not been paid in over 4 months!

Our chairman didn't care about ethics or our county or the fate of the CEC. It's gotten so bad that 60 members of our CEC have spent our own money to get legal help and we filed a Writ of Mandamus at the Texas Supreme Court. This action was taken because the SREC refused to enforce their own rules to force our Chairman to follow the bylaws.

As mentioned earlier, this situation is happening in 40 counties, so if HB 4636 passes it will ruin these counties and Texas will turn blue. VOTE NO!!!

John Wertz, Mr.
Pct. 69 Chair, Montgomery County Republican Chair
The Woodlands, TX

Please vote AGAINST this ANTI-AMERICAN bill. What's the point of having an elected precinct chair as part of a CEC if all the power is ceded to one person, the County Party Chair? Where would the county representation for each precinct be? Who block-walks? This is nothing more than tyranny on a stick! It's offensive, especially to those of us currently faced w/a power hungry party chairman and his money-hungry political consultant wife! Whoever sponsored this should be embarrassed!

Janis Holt
RPT/ SREC Committee Woman SD3
Silsbee, TX

I am in opposition to Section 3(c) of this bill which gives authority to the County Chair of a political party to appoint a replacement precinct chair.

“A county chair SHALL appoint a replacement who meets the qualifications for office under Section 161.005 to serve for the remainder of the term. This gives too much authority to a county chair who might appoint precinct chairs who would not oppose a county chair’s particular agenda akin to “court packing”. This section goes on to say, “The county chair MAY form a vacancy committee to assist in filling vacancies under this subsection”. I believe this should be, at a bare minimum, a requirement to form this committee.

I further believe that all replacement precinct chairs should be vetted by that Vacancy Committee and then approved by the entire County Executive Committee.

Thank you for allowing me to address my concerns with this bill HB 4636. Respectfully, Janis Holt

Tisha Crow, Ector County Chair, SREC
Self, Ector County Republican Party
Odessa, TX

I am against this bill as a whole. I believe that allowing the County Chair to appoint all precinct chairs is a mistake our state may not recover from.

Donald Pollock
PERSONAL POSITION
Texas City, TX

The current system allows review and approval of Precinct Chairs by the CEC, i.e. the other Precinct Chairs. This fosters a discussion of the qualifications or lack thereof of candidates. The system works well and the idea of allowing the County Chairman to unilaterally appoint Precinct Chairs would turn a democratic system into an authoritarian system. Do not support HB 4636.

Tim Harry
Self
Odessa, TX

It would allow the county chair as chair, to appoint all precinct chairs. This is a mistake and it is mandatory that we have pc’s voting in other pc’s placement. This would be very bad for county parties and could actually end the Republican Party in Texas. Chairs should not be appointing pc’s!

Herschel Williams
Retired
Montgomery, TX

For almost a year I have struggled with a County Chairman who is obsessed with dominating our CEC when his primary function is to conduct the business of the CEC as the members see fit. He is an authoritarian and does not see the value of consensus building collegial problem solving. This bill will kill the spirit of the group and the purpose for their being in existence. The 111 Montgomery County Precinct Chairs, forming our CEC, are representatives of the people. They are not servants of the County Chairperson. The will of the people is expressed by the election and support of Precinct Chairs. Precinct Chairs should be the ones to replace their own, not the County Chair. I strongly urge that this bill not be passed. It is an anathema to civil discourse and constructive popular participation in government at its most basic level.

Dennis Tibbs, Mr
Self
Magnolia, TX

Against this bill. Please vote against this bill which strips power from the Precinct Chairs and the CEC. Virtually all organizations allow the executive body to select their Chairman. This applies to the state and national House and Senate, to almost all corporations and even to the precinct convention chairs, the senatorial chairs and to the state party chairman. Placing the county chair on the ballot is a major Exception to the Rule! The County Chairs should be selected by the Body just as you select your Speaker

Pat Tibbs
Self
Magnolia, TX

Please vote no on this bill. This bill would allow the county chair to remove any precinct chairs he didn't like and replace with his choice thereby voiding the voters choice. Power corrupts absolute power absolutely corrupt. This would cause EVERY. County to go thru what Montgomery county is going through. Vote against this bill. We already have too many corrupt county chairs.

Freda Daniels
Self, retired, precinct chair 111
Odessa, TX

I am against HB3646. Precinct chairs should not be appointed by the chair.

Cynthia Wills
Self, retired
Galveston, TX

I oppose HB 4636. It is the duty of the County Executive Committee to recruit and train Precinct Chairs. Do you really think that giving the County Chair blanket authority to appoint Precinct Chairs or replacement Precinct Chairs WITHOUT input and a vote from the County Executive Committee is appropriate? It is demeaning to the County Executive Committee and gives too much power to the County Chair. Please oppose HB 4636 and make certain that the County Executive Committee selects the Precinct Chairs and any replacement Precinct Chairs. Thank you.

Carmen Wilhite
Self
Odessa, TX

I am against the Chair or the party appointing all precinct chairs.

Peggy Irvin
Self. Homemaker
Odessa, TX

I do NOT believe that this bill serves the people in a positive way. I ask that it not be passed.

Jennifer Woodall
Ector county precinct chair 101
Odessa, TX

This is not good. There is no accountability in this with power grab possibilities. County Chairs should not appoint Precinct Chairs. Please vote NO!

Claudette Webb, Odessa,Texas
Odessa Republican party presents chair
Odessa, TX

Precent chairs should be voted in NOT APPOINTED by the chairperson!

Jesse Christesson
Ector County Republican Party
Odessa, TX

In my opinion current PC's should have the final vote on Chairs for precinct's in their community. I fill as tho this Bill could end all Precinct power and make the community one sided.

Ned Luscombe
Precinct chairman hb
Gardendale, TX

Appointmentsof precinct chairs should not be at sole discretion of county chairman. Precinct chairs should be able to vote on precinct chair replacements. Vote no on this bill.

Dallas Kennedy
Self
Odessa, TX

We should not be taking away the ability of voters to chose their own precinct chairs. Why would we restrict voting? I am big NO on this one.

Sandra L Hayes, Ms
Self
Georgetown, TX

Very important to have Precinct Chairs to represent their district and NOT give all power to the County Chair. The reasons for not doing this are probably more than I can list. To allow all power to go to one chair can lead to abuse of power, to possible corruption with little or no oversight. Various Precinct chairs are more closely related to the people in each precinct and can hear the voice of the people whereby the County chair can t possibly hear the voice of as many. All power given to the Chair involving monies and decisions on spending and budget gives me great concern. Overall a very bad idea. I have personal reasons that this would be a bad idea. Vote against HB 4636A. Thank you. Sandy Hayes

Luis Pedraza
Self
Conroe, TX

I very much oppose this bill. It gives County Chairman to much control over the party's operation which is limiting the consent of the people. Please vote this down.

Christine Vorderbruggen, Mrs
Self, Business owner, mom of four, precinct chair, HD Chair
Allen, TX

This bill unravels the checks and balances of the county executive committee. This bill would eliminate the voice the precinct chair represents. This bill is bad for our counties and state. The Chair facilitates the meetings. This bill creates county lever tyranny. Please object to a bill that renders the Chairman all powerful and removes the PC voice. There should be checks and balances.

Dawn Tucker
Self
Odessa, TX

Please Vote against HB4636
This would be very bad for county parties and could actually end the Republican Party in Texas.
Chairs should not be appointing pc's!

Clayton Smith, Sgt in Arms
ECRP
Odessa, TX

Please reject this bill, it will not allow our counties to be properly represented by their choosing and would increase the likelihood of a chair to come in and change the entire direction of things. Against the actual will of the party. It makes for instabilities that we shouldn't encounter

Neda Henery, Ms
Self/ Retiree
Conroe, TX

Vote NO on HB 4636 and please don't allow any of the amendments to the Election Code contained in HB 4636 pass out of committee as every one of them is created to take away all of the authority of the body of the County Executive Committee (CEC) which is made up of the most accountable and responsible to the voting public, the elected Precinct Chairs. It's astonishing that this bill's intent is to eliminate the CEC's Bylaws which are voted on and passed by the CEC every biennium. What purpose would such legislation accomplish, except to acquire all power and say for the County Chair dictatorship? The Election Code should not govern how each county determines their agendas, meeting calls, voting in person or virtual, bank accounts, contracts, choose precinct chairs to fill vacancies or how the chairman can be removed from office. The Republican Party of Texas is a private organization that holds a convention every two years where the delegates vote on the rules, resolutions, priorities, etc. to take care of their own business. Since all of the Texas counties Bylaws must follow the rules of the RPT, the Legislature should not interfere with the day to day activities and decisions of the local CEC's. Thank you for voting NO on this important matter.

John van Compernelle
Self
Mineola, TX

I am against this bill as it seeks to impose a top down authority in the County Political organizations when the vary structure of our representative government is intended to be bottom up.

Dale Fessenden
Montgomery County CEC conservatives
Conroe, TX

This bill is inconceivably Pro marxist. This makes the county chairman a total dictator, and the CEC totally toothless. What is the legislature thinking even considering this bill which deals totally with a private organization? The legislature should have no dog in this fight and butt out!

Edward Scruggs
Self
The Woodlands, TX

You must vote NO in this bill. It would destroy all democratic process in the local Republican parties. As with any other organization, the chairman is appointed by the board of directors and serves at their pleasure. The same MUST be done in this instance. The elected CEC is the board of directors for the county Republican parties and MUST retain their ability to direct the activities according to the majority desires.

Dale Inman, SD4 Committeeman and Pastor
Senate District 4
Conroe, TX

We are strongly opposed to any bill that increases centralized power in the hands of one individual. This bill will open the door for soros type money to potentially take over Republican chairmanships and destroy the Republican Party. We have seen soros money influence district attorneys and the ensuing criminal disaster this has caused. Please vote NO on HB 4636
Thank you

Cherry Fessenden
Montgomery County Republican
Conroe, TX

This bill is a communist bill! Number one: it is outside of any authority of the Texas House. The CEC is a private organization. You should have NO authority over it. What will the House do next? Tell grocery stores how much I can buy each week? Or maybe how much gas I can buy next week? Or when are you going to come into my home and tell me what I can and can't do with my kids or grand-kids? Where will it end.
if you vote YES for this bill, I will attempt to personally contact every voter in your district to vote against you. This is a totally unconstitutional bill!!

Adrian Kaiser, Mr
Self
Magnolia, TX

Howdy

As a precinct chair in Montgomery County. We currently have infighting between the chairman And the majority of the precinct chairs. This bill will give the chairman unabashed authority to do whatever he wants and disregard the will of the majority of the county executive committee.

In a sense this bill Nulifies even the need for precinct chairs.

I would strongly suggest that each Member of this committee look at this bill for what it is and contact precinct chairs before voting to make them Irrelevant.

Precinct chairs in this state and throughout this country do a lot of work behind the scenes, They're the backbone of both parties. And they can play important roles and races. Making them completely irrelevant in party affairs. I strongly urge All committee members And house of representative members to vote this bill down and Not nullify the effect that precinct chairs have

Thank you

Steven Crowe
Self
Montgomery, TX

Vote NO on HB 4636 and stop the political takeover of county parties.

Edward Kandler
self -retited
Jarrell, TX

I oppose HB 4636 because I feel it would take away significant amount of bottom-to-top governing & diminish individual voter power.

Randy Bellomy, Mr.
self
Ovilla, TX

As the county chairman of Ellis County Republican Party i am not in favor of this bill it puts too much power in the chairman hands.

Christina Drewry
Precinct Chair
Flint, TX

I oppose this bill. County Chairs do not need to hold this much power. What is the point of an Executive Committee when you give this kind of control to a County Chair alone? Some of these issues should be decided on by the local party and added to bylaws and/or rules, not by forcing them into Texas Election Code. Changing the Texas Election Code with this language will remove local control within CECs. I strongly oppose this.

Belinda Lambright, Voter
Self; retired
Pampa, TX

This bill will absolutely destroy the Republican Party in Texas counties where we have rouge and dictator style County Chairmen, such as Montgomery County. This bill passage would be completely irresponsible allowing one single person to have total authority of the party in a county. What is Republican and fair about that?

Ginger RUSSELL, Precinct Chair
Montgomery County Republican Party
Magnolia, TX

I oppose this legislation. It gives the county Chairman complete control over the County Exexecutive Committee making him the dictator.

This is absurd.

Melinda Olinde
self, retired
Magnolia, TX

Please vote NO, NO, NO on this bill. If passed this would officially create a dictatorship by the County Chairman. There would be no need for a CEC/PrecinctChairs. The Republican Party of Texas is a private organization. The RULES of the RPT already set out the governing principles/rules of the Chairman and the County Executive Committee. All of the Texas county Bylaws MUST follow the Rules of the RPT. The Texas Legislature should not interfere with the day to day activities and decisions the County Executive Committee.

Thank you for voting NO on this very important matter.

Respectfully,

Melinda Olinde
Montgomery County

Judith Lee Neal
Self
Plano, TX

I writing to oppose HB4636. This bill would undermine the relationship between the Precinct Chairs, Executive Committee and the County Chairman.
Please join me in opposing this very divisive bill HB4636

Robert Withrow
self
Montgomery, TX

I am against HB4636. This bill would be the destruction of local control over the county parties. It would eliminate the oversight of the pct. chairs who are elected by their pct. to oversee the county party. It would actually allow the Democrat party to swing elections for the party chairs and destroy the county party. It destroys the checks and balances of the pct chairs over the local party. Vote no on this bill as it will destroy grassroots control of the party. The Republican party is based on grassroots activism. this will allow one person to control access to running for office throughout the State. VOTE AGAINST

Joshua Graff
self / sales
Conroe, TX

Vote NO on HB 4636. There are many reasons as to why you should vote no. First, this is a private organization who should be able to dictate their own rules, it would be unconstitutional for the Texas Legislature to dictate a private organizations internal structure and would set a terrible precedent for all organizations. Second, if the Chairman of the county parties are given ultimate control to make all decisions, what reason would there be to even have a CEC if the chairman could override every decision they made. Pct. chairs are elected to be representatives and speak for their constituents and this proposed change would be interfering in that process and all trust would be eradicated. Third, this would destroy the grass roots get out the vote apparatus. Who would want to volunteer for an organization that has no checks and balances in power and decision making. For these reasons I ask that you to vote NO on HB 4636 and start focusing on the constitutional form and function of the Texas Legislature and submit bills that fall under true constitutional stewardship.

Stacey Pauley
Self
San Antonio, TX

I am opposed to this bill. As a precinct chair I shouldn't have to kiss the ring of the County Chair so that he/she will appoint me. I don't work for or represent him/her. I work for and represent the people of my precinct that elect me. If this bill were to pass, then how would County Chairs ever be held accountable for anything? Precinct chairs would be afraid to speak out against them for fear of being replaced. This bill would make the County Chair a king of sorts and the precinct chairs would be nothing more than court jesters saying yes to everything they want. My county already has precinct chair vacancies and I foresee many active precinct chairs quitting if this bill passes. We should be doing things to encourage people to get involved and participate in the political process and not things that do the complete opposite.

susan Lucas
retired
BRYAN, TX

AGAINST. You should be ashamed to even bring this bill to committee. Legislature has no business creating law to try and control the internal organization of a political party. It is a direct attack on Freedom.

Norma Jeter, Mrs
Self, retired
Spring, TX

Absolutely a NO!

Charlene Reagan
Self and True Texas Project
SPICEWOOD, TX

For 4636
I am especially glad to limit candidates to those who have no criminal record. Thank you.

Michael Meinersmann
Self
Bryan, TX

Please DO NOT pass this bill. The internal organization and operation of political parties are not the government's business.

Thomas Bartel
Self
Plano, TX

I am against this bill, please do NOT pass it out of committee.
I believe this centralizes too much power in the County Chair, and removes power from the Precinct Chairs. Again, please vote NO on this bill.

Karen Gilbert
Montgomery county Republican voters
Conroe, TX

No to this bill. Power should be in the hands of the precinct voters not the chairman

Margaret Crabtree, Mrs.
Self, stenographic scopist
Waxahachie, TX

This bill strips much of the power given by the voters to their elected representatives on the precinct chair level and hands it to the county chair. This is a matter better decided at the county level or by the political party at its state convention. I have served as a precinct chair for my county political party for almost 30 years and am very concerned this bill will give too much power to a rogue county chair who has his/her own agenda that may not meet the consensus of the executive committee or the constituents who elected their local political leaders. Please vote no on this bill.

Donald Brown, Precinct Chair
Travis County Republican Party
Austin, TX

A fundamental strength of our party system is the principle that the voters elect their precinct chairs to represent their precincts. These elected chairs form the party leadership at a county level. It is a bottoms up, grass roots system. not a top down structure of appointments. Precinct Chairs that are nominated to fill vacancies must be approved by a quorum of the County Executive Committee, made up of the elected precinct chairs. The county chair should fill empty chair positions on their own discretion. This would undermine the confidence of the voters and place too much power in the hands of the County Chair, thus weakening the party.

Donald Brown, Precinct Chair
Travis County Republican Party
Austin, TX

CORRECTED SUBMISSION

A fundamental strength of our party system is the principle that the voters elect their precinct chairs to represent their precincts. These elected chairs form the party leadership at a county level. It is a bottoms up, grass roots system. not a top down structure of appointments. Precinct Chairs that are nominated to fill vacancies must be approved by a quorum of the County Executive Committee, made up of the elected precinct chairs. The county chair should NOT fill empty chair positions on their own discretion. This would undermine the confidence of the voters and place too much power in the hands of the County Chair, thus weakening the party.

Audrey Warner
self
Conroe, TX, TX

NO NO NO NO NO

Sharon Edwards, Mrs.
Self
Austin, TX

I oppose the following amendment to the bill: ""If a vacancy occurs in the office of precinct chair, the county chair shall appoint a replacement who meets the remainder of the term. The county chair may form a vacancy committee membership that constitutes a quorum for purposes of committee to assist in filling vacancies under this subsection."

The current language of the Election Code places the authority of voting for precinct chair vacancies in the hands of the majority of the County Executive Committee. The above amendment removes the grassroots involvement in electing precinct chairs. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Greg Field
Self Data Engineer
Austin, TX

A fundamental strength of our party system is the principle that the voters elect their precinct chairs to represent their precincts. These elected chairs form the party leadership at a county level. It is a bottoms up, grass roots system. not a top down structure of appointments. Precinct Chairs that are nominated to fill vacancies must be approved by a quorum of the County Executive Committee, made up of the elected precinct chairs. The county chair should NOT fill empty chair positions on their own discretion. This would undermine the confidence of the voters and place too much power in the hands of the County Chair.

Shawn Flanagan
self
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

Against. Gives too much power to County Chair.

Roger Queen, HB4636
Self Ellis County Precinct 1044 Chair
Waxahachie, TX

I am opposed to this bill which would limit the power of precinct chairs. This bill goes against the very nature of our republic where we are not governed by a king or a monarch, but rather we the people govern this state and nation. Also, precinct chairs represent a smaller group of people, which allows all people to have a say in this republic. Smaller government is more accountable than larger governing authorities!
Vote against removing power from county precinct chairpersons!

Chris Donofrio
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I support HB 4636.
I urge you to pass it out of committee.

Yet, I see a serious flaw in the bill.

We are all "Equal Under Law." I believe this bill places an undue burden upon Republican lawmakers, governors, judges, and individuals who have been or likely could be charged with felonies for their recent behaviors.

Those of us who value facts, civil rights, voters' rights, transgender rights, and democracy will surely benefit from this bill.

Those who have already participated in the 2021 coup, who relish violating Texans' civil, voting, and human rights, and those selling their constituents out so that they can stay in office should be treated equally under law. For them, unfortunately, justice and accountability may not be with they really want.

I support HB 4636.
Please pass it out of committee.

Respectfully,
Chris J. Donofrio

Stephen Shoop
GOP Precinct Chair- 1018
Ennis, TX

I oppose this bill.

Jan Gorla
Self
Frisco, TX

Do not support this bill. We need transparency. One person should not be head of, hold all decision making of any thing. That is not what a republic is about. Do not support please.

Eric Meyers
Self
Corsicana, TX, TX

As a former County Chairman for Navarro County, I fully support the text of HB 4636. This Bill helps to clarify the role of County Chair as well as resolve some of the past ambiguities for the role of County Chair.

Brian Bowden, Gregg County Republican Chairman
Republican Party
Longview, TX

As a county Chairman I support this bill.

Trudy Hayter
Self
Mountain City, TX

As elected Republican precinct chair in Hays County #425 I support the passage of HB 4636. This is a bill to clarify the role of County Chair and clean up some ambiguity in current law.

Jack Barcroft
self
Gatesville, TX

Overall BH 4636 looks to install good legislation that is actually needed. I

SECTION1.Section 161.005 - I don't see any issues with this addition.] [My reading of SECTION 2. Section 171.022 Sub (e) - is the definition of a volunteer. A volunteer needs not be appointed by anyone. The composition of an Exec Committee need not include in election code the use of volunteers in my opinion.] [SECTION 3. Section 171.024 - No issues] [SECTION 2. Section 171.022 Sub: (e) - No issues] [SECTION 6.Section 171.028 - I would be more comfortable with the removal of the word "Bank" if there were more specific language to outline what are accounts? Social media accounts? Email accounts? There is a Class C misdemeanor involved with non-compliance and therefore the language needs to be more specific, not ambiguous and open to interpretation. The strikes of "bank" "over which the former county chair has authority" could be left alone or bank changed to "financial" to cover for e-currency methods. The addition of (e) The county chair has authority.... is a great addition and should stay as is.] [SECTION7. Section 171.029 These are great additions as long as Section 161.005 doesn't eventually turn into party rule by legislation.] [

Michael Drury, Wise County GOP Chairman
Wise County GOP Chairman
Decatur, TX

As the Chairman for the Wise County Republican Party I can say with confidence I do not support this bill. County Chairman already have sufficient power and authority to effectively do the job required. Adding authority will change the balance of power and will not help in any way but rather give the chair an advantage that is not necessary. I ran and fought hard to return power to the CEC that directly reflects the people at a community level. Chairman need to be attentive to the CEC and help provide them with what they need to do what is necessary to educate and motive people to vote as they see fit. Please do not pass this bill.

Mo Saiidi
Gillespie county Republican party
Fredericksburg, TX

Ias a current Gillespie county Republican Party chair, I fully support this bill.

Will Orr
Self- sales
Itasca, TX

I support this bill. As a county chair who has served for 10 years- I have seen the issues multiple other county chairs suffer while trying to perform the statutory duties as a volunteer. Clarifying the roles and responsibilities in Election Code will help our county chairs to better be able to perform their duties.

Kathy Ponce
Self
Maypearl, TX

I strongly oppose this bill.
Precinct Chairs are the heart and soul of any political party. Executive Committee's are the checks and balances of the County Chair. No County Chair should ever have as much power that this bill would provide. Even good County Chairs need accountability. If changes are to be done to the operation of a County party it should take place at the Party Conventions, through the rules committee and NOT legislated in Austin.
It is believed to be that State Rep Orr has a personal and vested interest in this bill as her husband is the County Chair for Hill County.
This bill must be stopped.

Bradford Holland
McLennan County Republican Party
Waco, TX

Distinguished and Honorable House Members,

It is with urgency and necessity that I write to support Rep. Orr's HB 4636.

As a County Party Chair, I know that this bill greatly helps clean up and codify some important aspects of the way in which our county parties conduct their business.

Further, it unifies the process across the state and makes for a much more cohesive and orderly way to conduct County Party business.

With the substitute language in place such that the County Executive Committee approves the Chair's nomination of Precinct Chair vacancies--this will help Party Chairs conduct their business and make the entire process more uniform statewide.

I will tell you that remote voting fo rhte CEC would GREATLY enhance our the functioning and participation in our due process. We have the technology to do so in Waco, we have even tested it, and we need the authority to use it.

I also know that appointing certain members of the CEC and executive committee is such an important part of what I do (it's the way we have done things for some time, and is the way every county party should conduct themselves).

I urge all of you to support HB 4636 with substitute language, and I guarantee it will improve the functioning and uniformity of the CEC in each county. The job of county chair is often filled with trial and tribulation, and is often thankless, but this will greatly help in the day-to-day operations of county parties and is sorely needed.

Thanks for your time and attention in this matter,

Brad Holland
McLennan County Republican Party Chair
Waco, TX

Janet Jackson
Self
Clifton, TX

Having served as a former President and State Training Director of the Texas Republican County Chairman's Association, I am fully acquainted with the many variations of understanding of the functions of the CEC. The lack of statutory rules especially dealing with Party accounts has been manipulated in various ways, often to the detriment of the overall function of the Party. I encourage the passing of this Bill.

Alonzo Poteet, Mr.
Immediate past Blanco County Republican Chair
Clifton, TX

As the former Chairman of the Blanco County Republican Party, I am in total support of HB4636 to clarify any ambiguity regarding the role or authority of Texas Republican County Chairmen. This bill memorializes common sense & what the Texas Republican Party stands for today & into the future. The Republican County Chair is the elected authority for the Republican Party & they are responsible & accountable for outcomes, not the political whims of the Precinct Chairs.

Brent Hagenbuch, Denton County Republican Party Chairman
Denton County GOP
Denton, TX

I have heard tha the detractors of HB 4636 say it is a power grab. It is not. It is giving the one person that was elected, countywide a chance to possibly facilitate the CEC with some semblance of order. The alternative is the chaos in Montgomery county and what we're starting to see here in Denton County.

Anyone objective who has watched our CEC meetingscould would tell you I've bent over backwards to be fair and friendly as chairman and follow the rules and explain them carefully. In our last meeting we could not even get through approving the minutes for the meeting before we had a total breakdown of decorum - - to the point that the gracious people at the Cowboy Church in Denton county had to ask us to leave.

I have a credible background for knowing and leading organizations: Naval Academy graduate. Combat Construction Battalion Company Commander. MS in engineering from Stanford and an MBA. McKinsey Consultant. PepsiCo Exec and now CEO & Owner of a \$150 million transportation company. Also, I serve on the board of Feed the children, one of the top 30 charities in the country. I've also held leadership roles in ministry.

I've never seen such a dysfunction organization before that is so distracted from its mission. A big part is an imbalance between accountability and authority for the organization's leader - the County Chairman. At the Naval Academy they taught us never hold someone in your charge accountable without a communicable measure of authority. That puts them in a no win, untenable situation. That is the situation County Chairmen are in. This bill does not go to any extreme, but thoughtfully tries to establish some level of balance and gives county chairs some chance of doing their job and leading toward our mission.

If we choose to do nothing, I fear many capable people with leadership, and other valuable skills will take them to organizations they can actually accomplish something in. Then what will we be left with in county CECs?

Elizabeth Hopkins
Little Elm Precinct 1035
Little Elm, TX

HB4636: Please vote AGAINST this bill as it would be a huge mistake to think that one person could manage an entire county of voters while, at the same time, adequately and efficiently handling the party's important business interests. Thank you!

Robin Wilson
Self, Johnson County Republican Party Chairman
Cleburne, TX

The amendments outlined in HB4636 are well-stated in Elections sections where defined statements for clarification is outlined. I began my elected role as County Chairman in June 2014 and am currently serving my 5th term. I have learned over these many years that less than 25% (I'm being generous) of County Executive Committee Members are active and involved. This places most daily tasks in the County Chairman's "playing court". It is important to amend the law to allow the County Chairman procedures that will place more committed and actively supportive persons in assisting roles and appointed positions. HB4636 is written with amendments to help and not hinder Party growth in our Counties and subdivisions. The key to growth is volunteers and the commitment comes when volunteers have a purpose that keeps them actively involved.

Mary Pat Paul
HAYS COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY - PCT CHAIR #450
Dripping Springs, TX

I am in FAVOR of this bill as long as it requires the County Executive Committee still vote on the vacant precinct chair candidate. I have received emails from some RPT SREC members falsely stating this bill would NOT require a vote from the County Executive Committee on the candidate to fill precinct chair vacancies. In other words, the County Chairman could fill these vacancies with only his/her approval. It is my understanding that some of the RPT SREC's are trying pass a rule that only the RPT SREC's can appoint County Chairman. I totally believe that is a power grab on their part. The voters of the county should continue electing the County Chairman, not be appointed by SREC's. AGAIN PLEASE VOTE IN FAVOR OF THIS BILL

Sam Paul
Self/Retired
Dripping Springs, TX

I am in FAVOR of this bill.

Anne Griffin
retired
Red Oak, TX

I oppose the passing of HB 4636 as it takes the decision making power away from the precinct chairs of each county (those who are closest to their constituents) and places more power into the hands of one person in each county. Nothing could be more of a mistake. The decision making role of the executive committee in each county, namely the precinct chairs, should remain in tact.

Bettie Gray
Precinct chair
Waxahachie, TX

I OPPOSE this bill because if a vacancy of a precinct chair occurs, it should not be filled only by the decision of the county chair. There should be a vetting process and a vote of 3 or 5 qualified people to replace the chair. Also, an appointment of ex officio, non voting member should only be allowed to assist in conducting business if that person is a member in good standing.

Allison Winter
self (retired)
The Woodlands, TX

My name is Allison Winter and I am against the amendments to HB 4636.

I have been a MCRP Precinct chair for approximately 10 years and the Vacancy Chair since 2018.

Unfortunately, the amendments in HB4636 give a County Chair unbridled control and power.

Since 2018, the Vacancy Committee implemented new procedures. We actively recruit, interview, and recommend potential prospects to fill vacancies but the CEC has the power to appoint. This has resulted in outstanding, gifted precinct chairs that truly desire to serve & represent their constituents.

Why would we want to allow a county chair to have the authority to fill vacancies or appoint members to a vacancy committee that would merely follow his dictates? We have had a dictator in the past...No thank you!

The County Chair always has that ability to call meetings as it stands. Our bylaws allow a group of at least 20% of the Precinct Chairs to call a special meeting should a need arise.

I urge you as well to see the danger in amended language in Section 6. (a)(1) and 6.(e). Our party has experienced issues with bank accounts and assets not being passed to the new county chair and CEC body. A County Chair is responsible for administering the Primary Account and the Corporate account only. Never a good idea to have ALL funds in one person's hands or one person approving the contracts which should be approved by the entire CEC.

Political parties are private organizations. We have the freedom of association. Section 4. (c) has been inappropriately applied to a political party to be subject to Section 551.127 as we are not a governmental agency and not under the Government Code. In-person meetings are essential for a large group to collaborate together.

Nita Davidson, Vice Chairman, Williamson County Republican Party
Self
Georgetown, TX

I would like to see your support of this bill. In supporting this bill you are helping all county chairs to faithfully do their jobs in finding active a loyal precinct chairs who are willing to help voters with information, encourage people to vote and help with judges and clerks on Election Day. County Chairs need precinct chairs willing to carry out their duties and not cause chaos and confusion.
Thank you!

Debbie Lindstrom
self - business owner
McKinney, TX

As a Precinct Chair, I oppose this bill.

It removes the power of the precinct chairs to approve members of the executive committee by allowing decisions to be made by appointment or a committee. This puts the direction of the executive committee solely in the hands of a few people.

Also it only allows for chairs to be removed for 3 reasons (not a county resident, has a felony, and is a candidate or office holder of a local, state or federal office). There may be other reasons to remove a chair (malfeasance, incompetence, etc).

Karen Post
Hale County TX GOP Chairwoman
Plainview, TX

I'm in favor of HB4636 for the following reasons, the bill brings qualifications for Precincts Chairs and County Chairs in-line with all other public officials. HB4636 codifies the authority of the County Chair, as presiding officer of the CEC, to appoint: a Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Sgt at Arms, and Secretary, removing such processes from individual party bylaws. HB4636 clarifies, without equivocation, that the Texas Election Code, not party rules, dictate how and if a local party officer may be removed from office. I thank you for your service to Texas and our elections.

Robert L Green
Travis County Republican Party Election Integrity Committee for Legislation
Austin, TX

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, I believe that H.B. 4636 is a very BAD piece of legislation that would have very negative consequences for both party's executive committee members in several Texas counties. My name is Bob Green, and I am Chair of the Travis County Republican Party's Election Integrity Committee for Legislation. I had intended to provide this testimony in person tomorrow, but I need to be out of town.

A little history: Travis County voters once elected a conspiratorial nutcase, Robert Morrow, as our county chair. The race was at the bottom of the ballot, he was listed first and had a normal sounding name. Furthermore, in heavily Democrat counties like Travis, our county chair race does not get a lot of public attention. After the election, our precinct chairs did damage control by ensuring that party funds would NOT be handled by Mr. Morrow, and that the Executive Committee ("EC") as a whole, and NOT Mr. Morrow, would speak for our county party.

This Bill would negate essential controls on accountability, and make county parties more vulnerable to financial and other "mischief" by a power-hungry chair. Note: Precinct chairs, too, are elected officials who have to run on the same ballot as county chair candidates. Candidates have opponents, are accountable to the people who elected them and so deserve a meaningful voice in the governance of their party. However, under this Bill, even requiring audits would require the consent of the county chair; and he/she could do anything with the bank account, and the county's EC would have no say in the matter. The precinct chairs couldn't even require audits unless the county chairman consented to put it on the agenda.

What if the county chairman is stealing money? Under this bill, the county EC would be powerless to act. Also, what if the county chairman fails to perform a mandatory duty under the Election Code? For example, in counties that include more than one senate district, the precinct chairs elect the chair of the district convention. Sometimes that chair comes from a different faction of the party than the county chair...or has different views. Under this Bill, the chairman could threaten not to call the meeting unless the precinct chairs agree to elect the chair's preferred candidate. It would also prevent the removal of precinct chairs who don't attend meetings.

If H. B. 4636 should become law, it could very well cause a discrimination problem. Republican Party of Texas Rule 3 prohibits racial discrimination, but this bill would supersede that non-discrimination policy. This Bill, as law, would allow county chairs to unilaterally select people to fill chairs in vacant precincts; so if the chair decided not to appoint women, or racial minorities, the EC would be powerless to enforce our party's non-discrimination rule.

Therefore, I ask the House Elections Committee to OPPOSE passage of H. B. 4636 as written. Thank you.

Jeanne Raley
self-retired
Smithville, TX

I have read this bill, and I would like to express my support for HB4636. It will help clarify the role of county chairs and clean up some current ambiguity. It also formalizes the authority of a county chair, a non-paid elected officer, to be able to recruit people to form committees to help county chairs manage what is a time consuming and arduous job but who would not have a vote on the County Election Committee of their Party. Please, pass this bill out of Committee.

Kenneth Earnest
Self
The Woodlands, TX

Vote NO on HB 4636. There are many reasons as to why you should vote no. First, this is a private organization who should be able to dictate their own rules, it would be unconstitutional for the Texas Legislature to dictate a private organizations internal structure and would set a terrible precedent for all organizations. Second, if the Chairman of the county parties are given ultimate control to make all decisions, what reason would there be to even have a CEC if the chairman could override every decision they made. Pct. chairs are elected to be representatives and speak for their constituents and this proposed change would be interfering in that process and all trust would be eradicated. Third, this would destroy the grass roots get out the vote apparatus. Who would want to volunteer for an organization that has no checks and balances in power and decision making. For these reasons I ask that you to vote NO on HB 4636 and start focusing on the constitutional form and function of the Texas Legislature and submit bills that fall under true constitutional stewardship.

Kimberly Weber
Precinct 97 Chair, Montgomery County Republican Party of Texas
Magnolia, TX

I strongly encourage the committee to vote NO on HB 4636 as it will cripple local parties, as it gives control of all bank accounts to the County Chair. The County Executive Committee will be unable to initiate any get out the vote effort in the event that the County Chair is unable or unwilling to do so. This bill is also a dis-incentive for Precinct Chairs to participate in fundraising efforts for the party, as they have no say in how party funds will be utilized.

This bill will give all power to the County Chair and it eliminates checks and balances, accountability and prohibit the ability of the elected Precinct Chairs to represent their Precinct. I encourage members of this Committee to vote NO, as it is government over reach on steroids at the local level.

Samantha Buford
Self
Palmer, TX

I oppose this bill and ask you do as well. The place to change the way County political parties run is at the state convention and NOT in Austin. The will of the delegates and their voice is heard through the Party Rules.

The Executive Committee is the checks and balances that we need in any political body. To hand over control to one person is detrimental to counties across Texas.

Dawn McMinn
Self
Montgomery, TX

Please do not support this bill. The people we elect as our precinct chairs are from our neighborhood, we know them. Do not let the county chairman take all of the power. The chairman's main job is to facilitate the meetings, not to hold power over everything. With the sole power over money and filling vacant precinct chair spots he could have a perfect little monarchy. We already have problems with chairman trying to subvert the CEC majorities. This is a terrible bill, submitted by someone with a major conflict of interest.

Adrienne Peña Garza, Chairwoman
Hidalgo County GOP
Pharr, TX

I support this bill wholeheartedly & am grateful for Representative Orr's efforts in regards to County Chairman. The work we do is tireless and thankless and this would help clarify our role & clear up any ambiguity.

Pam Perimon
Self
Hallsville, TX

I urge you to vote against this bill. Precinct Chairs were set up for a reason, to better represent the people and create a balance of power. Not all power needs to be given to one person.

Sandra Martinez
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I say NO to HB4636!

Karla Gant
Self
Allen, TX

I am writing to speak against this bill as a precinct chair in Collin county. This bill will too much power to the county chair and takes power away from the executive body. The decisions such as appointing new precinct chairs, allowing the chair to call all meetings, and controlling bank accounts takes the control away from the executive committee and places it in the hands of one individual. Precinct chairs should always be voted in by the entire body. Allowing the county chair to call virtual meetings is putting our executive bodies right back in the hands of control as we experienced in Covid. These decisions should always be made and voted on by the entire body. This bill takes away local control of the county GOP and should not pass.

Kim Roland
Self / Retired
Lockhart, TX

I OPPOSE this bill. It gives unlimited power to the County Chair and effectively neuters the County Executive Committee which is made up of Precinct Chairs.

The public of Texas is generally not aware or even encouraged to become educated about the important Precinct Chair position and duties. It would be appreciated if the State of Texas would assist in educating the public about this position and how THEY can become a Precinct Chair in their County. Partisan members have kept anyone not in their cliques in the dark for too long. It's time to change that dynamic and become Civically active in your community!

Linda Kinney
Self - Retired
Comfort, TX

I am in support of this bill. I have been involved with party politics for many years in many different capacities - Pct. Chair, County Chair, SREC member. Please pass this bill.

Wally Kinney
self
Comfort, TX

I am in total support of this bill. I have been involved in party politics for over 30 years and I believe this bill will help clarify roles and responsibilities of county chairs. It will NOT subdue the grassroots in any way. If it did, I wouldn't be supporting it.

Kimberly Galland
Self CPA
Bryan, TX

I am AGAINST passing this bill.

Al Fike
Self
Richardson, TX

We are totally against this HB 4636. This would create many problems and would facilitate us losing our freedoms in the local county. Do everything you can to stand against this please.

Teresa Campbell
Sam Houston council
Fort worth, TX

Public hearing election bills: 4/13/23

Bill # For or Against Desc. And why

HB 1208 Against

Relating to the reading and marking of a ballot by a person occupying a voting station or by the person's child. Create instruction material & allow child under 14 to mark at direction of parent. I am Against this bill: Assisting voter making a ballot or marking a ballot should be an adult who is eligible to take a full responsibility of his/her acts.

HB1243 For

Relating to the penalty for the offense of illegal voting; increasing a criminal penalty. I am For this bill: Our vote is our voice and our right. It is the heart of our democracy. Stiff penalties should apply to anything activity that violates our rights and our democracy.

HB5180 For

Relating to the disclosure of anonymous voted ballots under the public information law. I am For this bill: Election records are public domain so citizens should be able to perform independent audits in a timely manner. Many elected officials serve 24 months and the preservation period of 22 months before auditing does not allow for any corrections to be made before the next election.

HB 1356 Against

Add one ID card issued by Transportation Security Administration for accepting a person to vote. I am Against this bill: It increases fraud risk by fake ID cards and making more difficult for election workers.

HB 4697 Against

Relating to the audit of an election in certain counties where using "countywide polling place program" for allowing post-election partial hand count by selected polling locations to verify the tally results. I am Against this bill: there is no polling location information printed on a ballot in Tarrant county, therefore, the hand count cannot be confirmed with the original ballot by the polling locations. Moreover, after 60 days the polling locations are lost due to ballots being dumped into random boxes and transported to another facility, so the hand count can not be audited due to lack of polling location's continuity.

Dorothy Saka
Self - Retired
Bryan, TX

I am opposed to HB4636. The bill would give too much power to the county chair. I believe the local party should have control over its own proceedings.

Robert Parks
Self. Retired
Driftwood, TX

I am the Hays County Republican Chairman in my second term. I strongly support this bill because it promotes both the Chairman and the Precinct Chairs clarity to do their jobs in harmony for the good of the people. Please vote YES for this bill.

Sandi Ruble
self
Austin, TX

This is a bad bill and give too much power to the county chair. Please consider voting no on this bill.

Debra Damman, Precinct Chair
Self
Austin, TX

I am AGAINST this bill. Our government was set up for We the People. The Precinct Chairs represent the people. The County Chair is a role that is to serve the county party and citizens of the party. The County Chair is not the CEO of the county but the County Executive Committee made of the Precinct Chairs is who is to govern the county party. This bill is shredding the very foundation of our bottom up governing. We do not need County Chairs with more power, that is what is causing the problem, we need the Precinct Chairs empowered to fulfill their responsibilities.

I am AGAINST this bill for the additional reason of our state government should not be involved with our political parties or how they are governed. This is a violation of our freedoms and our ability to self govern. This is why our founders created the form of government we are trying to keep. I urge you to review history and review the basis of how our country was to be governed and to reject this bill.

Cassandra Dyson
Self. Retired
Driftwood, TX

My husband is a two term Republican County Chairman. I have seen the countless hours of dedication that he and other Chairman together with the Precinct Chairs pour into their jobs. This bill strengthens that powerful bond. Please vote YES.

Buck Rogers, Colonel
Self, Chairman Kendall County Republican Party
Boerne, TX

As Kendall County Republican Party Chair, I support this bill! I understand that there is substitute language to better define that the CEC has final approval of any precinct chair appointment. I support the inclusion of that language. Thanks for your time and consideration.

Cheers,
Buck Rogers

Michael Short, Mr.
self
Brookeland, TX

I am AGAINST this bill, primarily because the government should NOT attempt to dictate procedures related to the internal organization and operation of a political party.

Lynnette Ammar
self as Precinct chair for Collin County GOP
Parker, TX

I am Precinct chair for 165 in Collin County. I do not support this bill which would limit the power of local authority. The local chairs have an important role to play and this should be preserved.

Naomi Narvaiz, SREC SD25
Republican Party of Texas
New Braunfels, TX

I oppose this bill on the basis that the author's spouse is the chairman of their county party, and the government should not be imposing any regulation on how a political party functions. This bill has no place in this committee, or the house floor and should be killed today. Please vote NAY on this.

Jody Quimby
Self
Bryan, TX

I oppose this bill because it is antithetical to the Constitutional right of freedom of association. This bill proposes methods for centralizing power and can be used to isolate and disenfranchise the grassroots of a political party. Please throw this bill in the trash can where it belongs.

Bonnie Seelig
Self Retired
Spicewood, TX

AGAINST HB 4636 ORR

I believe that the executive committee at the county level should have the power to vote on the precinct chairs. No county chair should have that much control over the members of the committee. Members who are representing their precinct communities should have the power of the vote.

Jessica Pryor
Self
Round Rock, TX

Oppose

Tina Orebaugh, Retired proffessor of Mathematics
Myself
Montgomery, TX

I oppose this bill of totalitarian .

Tazsa Wells, Mrs.
Self
Farmersville, TX

I am a Collin County GOP precinct chair and I oppose this proposal. It grants way too much power to the County Chair. Where are the checks and balances? This would facilitate power grabs resulting in very detrimental consequences for local, state, and federal elections. VOTE NO!!!

Lizabeth Johnston, Mrs
self
College Station, TX

Please DO NOT PASS HB4636 OUT OF COMMITTEE! I do not want the federal government interfering with the organization and operation of our county political party functions. It is not in keeping with freedom of representation of the people and a bottom up structure.

Thank you
Lizabeth Johnston
Brazos County
Pct 35 chair

Deborah Avellano
Denton County Republican Party Precinct Chair #2073, Self
Corinth, TX

I vehemently OPPOSE House Bill 4636 as it radically shifts the power from the constituents of the County to an authoritarian figurehead. It essentially cuts off the citizen's path to constitutionally participate in the governance of the County, State and Nation. The American system is created to allow each citizen to be able to engage in the governance of their community, via the Precinct Chair position. It is grassroots oriented. This bill radically removes those checks and balances from the grassroots to grant sole authority to the Chairmanship in too many considerations. This centralization of power is Marxist in nature and violates the spirit of the Constitution as well as our roles in our local government. Any bill that limits the voices of our citizens to take action in the best interest of our governance needs to be stopped. Do not let this bill proceed, as it will sanction our citizens in their ability to address issues facing their communities at the whim of one person. We have seen the rules of a party, rewritten by a dominant Chair colluding with a specially selected committee, essentially kneecap Precinct Chairs from effectively serving their constituents. This manipulation must be halted. Stop HB4636 now.

Cyndie Phillips
Self
Magnolia, TX

I am in opposition of this bill. I believe this would give way too much authority to one person.

Nancy Taylor
Self retired
Ennis, TX

Vote no on HB4636
Thank you

Dana Oakes
Self
Humble, TX

I am in opposition of this bill. No single person should have that much power, hence the reason for having a committee.

Frank Steed
Self/retired
Kerens, TX

I support Representative Orr's position

Kathy Haigler
Self - election consultant
Dale, TX

SUPPORT! This is a great bill. It reins in rogue state party leadership who are "de-coupling" themselves from the Texas Election Code and trying to create new ways to censure and remove County Chairs or Precinct Chairs in ways outside the Texas Election Code. It prevents felons who have not completed their terms of release from filing for party office. It clarifies who calls CEC meetings to stop the runaway "rump" meetings when Precinct Chairs oppose their County Chairs. Several years ago I saw a CEC reject a brilliant woman with a Masters degree from serving as a Precinct Chair. Why? Because she was friends with the County Chair. The CEC would rather the precinct be VACANT than have a well-qualified person to serve there if she might ever vote with the Chairman. That's the messed-up iner-party politics this bill seeks to fix. It's sad that this bill is needed, but it IS needed to keep the crazies from running the asylum. Please vote FOR the bill to help County Chairs.

Kevin Formolo, Major (USAF Retired)
self
Spring Branch, TX

AGAINST. The measure consolidates power of precinct party chair appointments to the county party chair. No issue with Section 1 of the measure.

Regarding Section 2 of the measure. It allows the county party chair to appoint non-voting members to assist the county executive committee at the pleasure of the county party chair. This diminishes the consent of the governed by consolidating power in the county party chair. It should be amended to provide an "advise and consent" role for the executive committee membership. Propose the following change:

"SECTION 2. Section 171.022, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) With the advice and consent as determined by a plurality of votes of the precinct chairs of the executive committee, the county chair may appoint ex officio, nonvoting members, as necessary, to assist the county executive committee in conducting business, to serve at the pleasure of the executive committee."

Section 3 of the measure further consolidates unilateral power to the county party chair allowing the county party chair to unilaterally fill precinct vacancy. This change should be stricken and the original text remain.

Section 4 of the measure invests sole authority for setting the schedule and agenda for county executive committee meetings with the county party chair. No authority is provided to allow requests for meetings or introduction of agenda topics by executive committee membership. Recommend revising language to read:

"SECTION 4. Section 171.026, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 171.026. MEETINGS; PROXY NOT ALLOWED. (a) The county chair shall set the schedule for meetings and the agenda for each meeting with the advice and consent of the precinct chairs as determined by a plurality of votes.

(b) A person may not participate in a county executive committee meeting as a proxy.

(c) A county executive committee meeting may be in person or by videoconference, as provided by Section 551.127, Government Code."

Section 6 of the measure outlines changes to Sec. 171.028 of the Texas Election Code specific to the authority of the county party chair by adding explicit authority and administration of all county party accounts and contracts. No check and balance are associated with this "power of the purse string." There should be language adopted that provides an authorization and appropriation role for the executive committee.

Section 7 of the measure limits means of removal of a county party chair. This seem to disenfranchise the precinct chairs of the county executive committee of an oversight role in redressing county chair performance shortfalls. Like most of legislature design for roles of parties in the election process, authority is focused on consolidation at higher levels and not down to the constituency most affected by those performance shortfalls. Power needs to devolve more to citizenry and not party apparachik.

Tyler Carlson, Maj ret
Hays County Republicans
San marcos, TX

As a former precinct chair I witnessed the problems due to the lack of clarity and authority for the role of county chair. This is a thankless job as it is and one critical to both parties. At least give some direction that will eliminate unnecessary problems. I would add even more to this bill. However, I like the fact that it is a simple change and one that benefits both parties. County chairs have a lot of responsibility and need your help.

RACHEL HALE
SELF
Henderson, TX

I do not SUPPORT this bill and ask it to not be passed out of committee - HB4636 will take away local control for our local parties. The County Chair will be allowed to appoint all Precinct Chairs - CEC has no say. The County Chair can appoint outside people to serve at their pleasure - CEC has no say. It adds that the County Chair can call the meetings and set the agenda, a Precinct Chair is at their mercy. The Chair decides what is on the agenda solely. This will not work across all 254 counties. They should not legislate the inner workings of each individual CEC. What is the point of participating in the CEC if the Chair has all the powers and you are just a place holder? The County Chair is not a boss and the Precinct Chairs are not employees. The County Chair is the leader and the Precinct Chairs are the team. We make decisions as a body representing our county. We do not need this piece of legislation to dictate the role of the Chair as if they were the CEO and Precinct Chairs are just minions. If an individual CEC wants to operate like this, they can edit their bylaws and shift more power to the Chair individually. I have included some screenshots from other Republicans on Facebook.

Sylvia Coulson
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill. This bill gives all the power to the County Chairs. We have a great county chair in Ellis County, but he would not want this power and should not have it.

Sandra Whitten
Texas Fully Loaded/Self
Laredo, TX

This is an absolute toxic bill that completely undermines the will of the people and the party process. If this bill has any dignity it will cease to exist. The bill in question circumvents the rights of the people to be able to have accountability and representation. This bill MUST NOT PASS!!

Michelle Winterroth
Self
Laredo, TX

As a Republican of the State of a Texas I do not agree. Vote against

John Nicks
Self - Concerned Republican
Magnolia, TX

I am against this bill as its government requires procedures specific to internal operations and procedures our political parties, which I feel is unethical. This bill would give more power to the county chair and less to the precinct chair / county executive committees and the county chair would also be able to create ex-officio members, which is bad. This is just a bad bill that needs to die in committee. Please vote NO.

Alexandra Schilling
Self - Mom and Candidate for school board
Garwood, TX

I strongly oppose. This bill is in direct violation of the RPT rules also.

Melody Allen
self - Logistics Manager
Waxahachie, TX

I am against this bill. I am a vice-precinct chair for my precinct. In our current format, our precinct chairs make up the executive committee for our local/county's political party, but if this bill passes, it will shift the voice and power from the precinct chairs to the county chair, and this is not good, in my opinion.

There are many good county chairs, and our county is blessed to have a strong, honest, upstanding chair that typically aligns with our precinct chairs on various issues. However, I am still against taking the voice away from precinct chairs to a county chair. This defeats the purpose of checks and balances for our political organizations. It would be detrimental to hand over control to a single individual.

In shifting the power from the precinct chairs to a county chair, this may also discourage folks to volunteer to be precinct chairs in the future, or it may even cause existing precinct chairs to want to step down, if they know their voice will no longer be heard at a monthly party meeting. We need people to get involved in our political process, and in shifting the power to a county chair, this just hinders our efforts to get people more involved.

Please vote against this bill. It would be a detriment to all counties across Texas.

Roy Getting
Retired Self
Irving, TX

This bill is bad. It puts all authority in the chairman's hands. The precinct chairs become nothing but puppets. This should be soundly turned down.

Fran Rhodes
True Texas Project, self (President non profit)
Ft Worth, TX

True Texas Project opposes this bill. The parties should determine how county party operations are run. What would be the point of the CEC if all power and decision making is placed with the County Chair? The people need to have a voice in county decisions, and the Precinct Chairs are an important part of that process.

Wendy Yockey
Self
Pinehurst, TX

Please do not pass this terrible Bill.
This Bill gives the County Chair dictatorial power over the County Executive Committee.

The County Chairs are already abusing the powers that they have; we should be limiting their control over the body, not expanding it.

The County Executive Committee is the closest bony to the County Citizens, stripping the Citizens of the little control that we have over our Party government is a travesty.

The nature of our government is already more overbearing than most of us can stand; please don't give anymore powers to create a more manipulative dictatorship at the County level.

WILLIAM SARGENT
SELF
GALVESTON, TX

I have read the committee substitute and think it is much better than the original bill as filed. Support

William Foster, Mr
self
Red Oak, TX

There is an old standard in Roman and English and American and Texas common law. It is called subsidiarity. It is the principle that critical decisions should be made at the lowest possible level where it affects those citizens. It stands against a top down order similar to totalitarian governments and kings and queens and dictators. HB 4636 is that type of organization for political parties. It is evil and against our form of government. Kill this bill.

Thank you,
Bill Foster

Marian Stanko
Self / Retired
San Antonio, TX

I generally oppose HB 4636.
I oppose 161.005(a)(3). It is unnecessary and redundant because you are not a qualified voter (a)(2) if you are a felon.
I oppose 171.022(e) because it is already addressed in most of the CEC governing Bylaws or Rules.
I oppose 171.024(c) because it violates the rights of the assembly (precinct chairs) to select its peers per Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised. The county chair is only the presiding officer during the conduct of meetings.
I support 171.026(a).
I oppose 171.026(c) because participation is degraded by the quorum needed to establish a true membership attendance which may violate 171.026(b) PROXIES, to debate as an assembly, and to vote as an assembly. Voting by secret ballot is violated by an electronic meeting as well. Nothing currently prevents a discussion being held online, but voting should be held in person by the assembly.
I support the edits in 171.028.
I partially support 171.029. Sec. 171.023. Residence of Precinct Chair is also a requirement which is not included in 171.029(e). Otherwise, I support 171.029(f).
Overall, One-Size-Fits-All legislation should not be applied to the wide range of county populations or number of precincts within a county executive committee, nor to organizations that conduct business from the bottom-up instead of top-down.

Robert West
The Five Star Plan
Jefferson, TX

The Republican and Democratic parties are not state controlled organizations and have "freedom of association". You might as well legislate how churches pick their pastors or the Boy Scouts award patches. As a delegate to the GOP State Convention I, along with about 5,000 other wrote the rules and job descriptions, we don't need you to do this for us.

Wanda Whitney, MRS
self
Georgetown, TX

We can't give all that power to one person, the County Chairs and expect a true Representative form of government to be formed.

Holly Freeman
Self
Waxahachie, TX

I oppose this bill. Party Chairs should not have unilateral authority.

Stacy Mayfield
Self/Retired
Midlothian, TX

I oppose this bill. Please vote NO

Connie Marshall
Myself
Lucas, TX

Oppose . Vote against 4636

Rohit Joy
Self; CPA
Plano, TX

I am the elected precinct chair for the Collin County Republican Party, Precinct 77. I oppose HB 4636. This legislation would empower county chairs at the expense of precinct chairs. We have a process for filling vacant precinct chair positions that involves vetting by a committee and a majority vote by the full county executive committee, which ensures these new members have broad support. We have filled enough vacancies over the last few years to go from being able to hold CEC meetings at HQ to having to rent space on Collin College campuses to fit everyone in the room, so this has been an effective method of filling vacancies. This bill would allow the county chair to appoint people who would rubber stamp his decisions to all the vacant positions, removing the effectiveness of the CEC is serving as a check on the chair.

In addition, HB 4636 would give county chairs sole power to schedule CEC meetings and set meeting agendas. This violates best practices in parliamentary procedure as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. The chair currently can call meetings and propose agendas, which precinct chairs can then make motions to amend before adoption. Depending on the bylaws and rules of each CEC, some percentage of the precinct chairs may have the power to call a meeting by written request if the chair refuses, which has happened in Collin County before. This legislation would likely be interpreted to override these provisions and vest all these powers in the chair, regardless of the bylaws or rules each CEC adopts.

Please respect the right of political parties, which are private organizations, to conduct their own internal affairs, and do not advance this bill to the floor. Thank you.

Marie Day
self
Shiner, TX

This bill is takes away the role of the constituents who voted for the Executive Committee. Please vote NO on this bill and any amendments!

Kenneth Roberts, Vice-Chairman
Hays County Republican Party
WIMBERLEY, TX

As a Vice-Chair and Precinct Chair of Hays County I strongly support House Bill HB4636.

Sherry Eller
Self
Temple, TX

HB 4636

I strongly oppose HB 4636. Please kill this bill in committee and do not move it forward. The state has no business meddling in the affairs of an organization. Even one Democrat witness commented about how odd to have this before the state legislature and to allow Democrats to have a say in how Republicans handle their party business. She said it seems like working on a bill for one county while making law for 'all' others. Please kill the bill.

Sarah Medford
self/retired attorney
Jarrell, TX

I am against HB 4636. At best, the arguments for the bill range from "this only codifies what we're already doing" to "of course we want to minimize precinct chair input on committees, as this slows us down". Please consider....What is the purpose of a County Executive Committee? As stated by one County Chair in testimony today, that purpose is to run the primary and get out the vote. If this is the LIMIT there is bound to be a more efficient way to get election workers and blockwalkers. Please respect the grassroots voices of precinct chairs of each individual voting precinct as the system was designed, and vote against HB1636. Thank you.

Cathy Jaster
retired / self
Georgetown, TX

We have a COUNTY CHAIR who does not follow our rules and has stopped the CEC from nominating pct chairs from the floor for empty precincts. This is a POWER GRAB by county chairs as our pct chairs are trying to fill these positions with qualified candidates. The county chairs are not and can not be held accountable as it is and this bill will further render the pct chairs powerless. The pct chairs are the ones who do the block walking for candidates and get out the vote. This is just another way to take the power away from the people and place it in the hands of politicians. Sad day if this passes.

Debra Wolgemuth
Self - McLennan County GOP Election Integrity Coordinator
Waco, TX

NO, this is a bad bill. The big "red flag" of this bill is that the "Chairman alone can replace precinct chairs." A bad Chairman can place his friends and cronies in precinct chairs. A kingdom of "yes men" could result. A county of Precinct Chairs should represent diverse ideas, even those that sometime conflict with the Chairman.

John Mata, Mr
Sef/retired
Bandera, TX

Grassroots means from the bottom to the top. This bill eliminates this philosophy by giving too much power to the County Chair. Vote no please.

Albert Highfield, Precinct Chair, 108, Comal County
Self
Canyon Lake, TX

With regard to this bill it should not be up to one person, County Chair, to determine the desires of 35 or more Precincts within a county. The County Chair Person should present nominations of each Precinct to the County Precinct Executive Committee for a fair vote to install new Precinct Chairs.

Kathy Phillips
Self
Bulverde, TX

I am against the bill. County party chairman need a checks and balance in place for appointing precinct chairs. That check and balance lies with the executive committee in the requirements of a vote on the nominee for precinct chair. A rogue county chairman could potentially fill precinct chair positions with people that do not have the party's best interest in mind. Please keep it the way it is now.

Natalie Olsson
Self as Precinct Chair Nueces County precinct 126
Corpus Christi, TX

This bill would basically let county chairs fill precinct vacancies regardless of what process the CEC already has in place. The bill doesn't even require the Precinct Chairs to vote.

I believe the process for Precinct Chairs voting in new Precinct chairs is an important step and it shouldn't be possible for any County Chair to circumvent.

Edward Schwing
Nueces County Republican Party
Corpus Christi, TX

As a Precinct Chair, I stand in opposition to HB4636. I do not support the bill.

Randy Farrar, Precinct Chair for #119, Nueces County
Self/Retired
Corpus Christi, TX

As a precinct chair I am opposed to allowing the county chair to appoint new precinct chairs as opposed to allowing precinct chairs to vote on new precinct chairs. This state and this nation are based on voting as opposed to appointing. Precinct Chairs are the very basic grassroots level of participation. If we take away this right/privilege it is just another step towards a dictatorship. Please vote against this bill.

Laura Milby, Mrs.
Self
Corpus Christi, TX

Legislation should not be passed that would circumvent the current procedures in place at the county level for installing precinct chairs or other officers. The county chair should not have the sole authority to make this decision. The executive committee for each county should be allowed to vote. Please do not allow such an overreach of authority. Respectfully submitted.

mary ellen snell
Bexar County GOP
Boerne, TX

I am AGAINST the following provisions of HB 4636

SECTION A2.AA Section 171.022, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) AA

The county chair may appoint ex officio, non voting members, as necessary, to assist the county executive committee in conducting business, to serve at the pleasure of the chair.

AND

SECTION A3.AA Section 171.024(c), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) a vacancy occurs in the office of precinct chair, the county chair shall appoint a replacement who meets the qualifications for office under Section 161.005(a) to serve for the remainder of the term.

AND

SECTION A4.AA Section 171.026, Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. A171.026.AA MEETINGS; PROXY NOT ALLOWED. (a) The county chair shall set the schedule for meetings and the agenda for each meeting

We need elected Precinct Chairs to serve their communities, not Chair-appointed ones. Precinct Chairs should be able to vote on Precinct Chairs who are not elected. As a check and balance of power.

We need to support the intent of Precinct Chairs, which is a grassroots connection to the people, not an establishment structure. The elected Secretary of the CEC should form the CEC agenda first, then referred to the Exec team and Chair, as is standard. The Chair sets the agenda order before a final published agenda.

Suzanne Guggenheim
Coastal Bend Republican Coalition
Corpus Christi, TX

This bill would basically let yhe county chairs fill precinct vacancies at their discretion regardless of what process the CEC already has in place. The bill doesn't even require the Precinct Chairs to vote.

I believe the process for Precinct Chairs vetting and voting in new Precinct chairs to fill in the vacancies is an important step and it shouldn't be possible for any County Chair to circumvent it.

Elisa Greene
Precinct Chair #407 Bandera County, TX
Bandera, TX

As Precinct Chair 407 in Bandera County, TX I am against this bill being passed; a hard NO. This bill will remove all voting rights from the precinct chairs when appointments are made. This bill will allow County Chairs to fill precinct chair vacancies regardless of any process now in place. It will NOT require a CEC vote!

This bill is a power grab! It is anti-grassroots!

Sandra Tetley
Self, Realty Officer, U. S. Government
Galveston, TX

I am opposed to HB 4636 particularly the change to Section 171.024(c), Election Code. Chairs for Vacant Precincts should be confirmed by majority vote of the County Executive Committee at a called meeting. The CEC and the County Chair are elected officials of the county and the entire CEC should be responsible for filling vacant precinct chairs with individuals who have applied and shown interest in the position. The collaboration of the entire body is a necessity for the success of a County Party.

Stephanie Cox
self/Investor relations
Conroe, TX

This bill will destroy the party process. Political parties are in nature private organizations and should not be subject to these type of constraints. The CEC is an elected body, just as a party chairman is. If this bill is allowed to go through, you are basically canceling out the vote of each precinct which elects its chairman. How would you like it if all the power of the House were given to the Speaker? You would have no say in anything and there would be no use for you to serve in your current capacity. This bill destroys a representative type of governing. Giving this much power and authority to one person is like a dictatorship. I strongly urge you to vote against this bill.

Gwen Withrow
retired self
Montgomery, TX

As a grassroots party activist and official I am against this bill. this bill will destroy the checks and balances of current party operations. It is against the very definition of the Republican party being the party of grassroots. Pct chairs are the very definition of grassroots involvement in the party. Worst of all the ability to provide oversight of the party will be destroyed as party chairman are allowed to operate without answering to the local pct. chairs. this is a terrible bill and will destroy the party grassroots.

Kenneth Kasper
Self - CPA
New Braunfels, TX

I oppose this proposed bill which if passed would remove the selection of Pct. chairs from the Executive committee and place the entire process in the hands of the county chair. The Executive committee should always be allowed to admit or reject fellow chairs and the decision should not be left to one individual.

Barbara Agan
Self- retired teacher
Corpus Christi, TX

Please, do not allow County Political Party Chairmen choose our Precinct Chairmen. This should be done by a vote of the Executive Committee (precinct chairmen already elected). Please, vote NO on this bill.

Doris Fike, Pct chair 102
Self, retired educator
Conroe, TX

Say NO, NO, NO to HB4636!
This bill would make the County Chairman KING, and give absolute control of the County party to him/her making the Precinct Chair useless and obsolete. It would put all decision making, funds, and personnel choices in the hands of a single person. This is not only Unamerican; it violates every cell in my INDEPENDENT TEXAS being. AND IT SHOULD MAKE YOUR BLOOD BOIL AS WELL.
I thought we had settled this question at THE ALAMO AND SAN JACINTO! Texans do not/will not allow tyranny on any level in our state or life!
I am speaking loudly and clearly so every lawmaker in Austin hears my voice....No "King" County Chairmen in TEXAS!
JUST SAY NO TO TYRANNY IN ANY FORM!

Jackie Williams
None
Magnolia, TX

HB 4636 - This bill creates dictatorial style political parties, canceling out elected precinct chairs. This tears down the very fabric of representation at the local level. If we are not able to get our voice heard through our elected Precinct Chair, we are being denied our true representation under the law. Please kill the bill.

Robert Phillips
Self Retired
Bulverde, TX

I am very much against this bill. The Grassroots of which Precinct Chairs represent the core of are what speaks for the residents of The Great State of Texas. To disallow them from having a say in the ways the local County Parties are run will remove the Grassroots say in local party business. Please vote NO on this bill.

Dale Fessenden
self
Conroe, TX

NO on HB 4636!

Holy Cow, Batman!!! This bill vests ALL power in the position of County Chairman. If passed, there will no longer be a need for CECs. The County Chair would be an unaccountable dictator.
It is TOTALLY INAPPROPRIATE for the State Legislature to levy such restrictions on a "private Party." Political Parties are NOT governmental bodies. "Don't mess with my Party!" Put this bill in the trash can!
This is the equivalent of vesting all power in the Governor, after which there would be no use for a Legislature. The Governor would be an unaccountable dictator.
"Danger, DANGER, Will Robinson"
I don't know what Rep Orr was thinking, but HB 4636 needs to be dispensed with IMMEDIATELY -- in the dustbin of the Legislature.

NO on HB 4636!

Charles Beers
self
Cat Spring, TX

I fully support the passage of HB4636. When there is major disagreement within a County Executive Committee, at some point there has to be a single point of contact for the organization. In the case of a CEC the voters elected the County Chair to be that single point of contact. They vote for Precinct Chairs to be the point of contact within their precinct and to advise and support the County Chair in their duties. Ultimately it is the ability of the County Chair to perform the duties that they were elected to perform. I believe this bill more clearly identifies tools the County Chair needs to perform the required duties.

Mary Morstead
self
Montgomery, TX

Why is the state legislature writing a bill to regulate our county political parties.? The State of Texas has no business telling us how to manage OUR business. Our county precincts can manage our own affairs without State interference.

Vote this bill down.

Mary George Morstead
12935 Shady Grove Lane
Montgomery, TX 77356
713-819-6413

Dawnett Faucett
Self
Galveston, TX

I strongly oppose HB 4636 which would give the County Chair blanket authority to appoint Precinct Chairs without a vote from CEC or any input from the CEC. Every vote counts - those individual members of the CEC must have a voice and a vote as well!

Cathie Locetta

Faith Votes Community Action Team leader at Grace Woodlands and Montgomery County Precinct 71 Chair
The Woodlands, TX

As precinct chair 71 in Montgomery County, I am strongly opposed to this entire bill! The most egregious sections of this bill are the following: 4, 6, 7! This horrendous bill makes the CEC body totally useless and pointless! We currently have a power-obsessed chairman and do not need a dictator! With this bill you are eliminating checks and balances, accountability, and the participation of the local precinct chairs. This bill needs to be thrown into the fiery furnace!

Staci Earnest

Self

The Woodlands, TX

This bill needs to be thrown out. I have seen firsthand what a rogue County Chairman can do to manipulate other elected officers to hinder the conservative majority of the Republican Party. The CEC is made up of many elected parties and needs to continue to have a voice in how the party is run.

Mary Jo Hudnall, Mrs.

Self

Magnolia, TX

Please vote NO on this bill and please don't let any of the Amendments to the Election Code contained in HB 4636 pass out of committee as every one of them is created to take away all of the authority of out of the body of the County Executive Committee which is the body which is most accountable and responsible to voting public, the elected Precinct Chairs.

It is astonishing that this bill's intent is to eliminate the County Executive Committee's Bylaws which are voted on and passed by the CEC each biennium. The State Election Code should not govern how each county determines their Agenda, meeting calls, voting in person or virtual, banks accounts, contracts, chose precinct chairs to fill vacancies, or how the chairman can be removed from office.

The Republican Party of Texas is a private organization. The RULES of the RPT already set out the governing principles/rules of the Chairman and the County Executive Committee. All of the Texas county Bylaws MUST follow the rules of the RPT. The Texas Legislature should not interfere with the day to day activities and decisions of the County Executive Committee.

Thank you for voting NO on this important matter.

Donald Zeek

Self

Dickinson, TX

I have been a Precinct Chair for over 20 years and do not see a need to give the County Chairman the authority to unilaterally appoint a Precinct Chair when there is a vacancy. In local party politics the proposed change by this bill would allow a County Chair to hand pick Precinct Chairs that agree with his/her way of managing the party creating a voting majority on his/her side of every party issue. Precinct Chair vacancies need to be voted on by all of the voting CEC members who are present at a duly call CEC meeting according to the party bylaws. There is no need to change the existing legislation on this issue.
