

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Elections
For HB 232

Compiled on: Thursday, March 16, 2023 1:20 PM

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Hearing Date: March 16, 2023 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Rhonda Anderson
self
Longview, TX

I am speaking in Favor of this bill. Most Candidates get petition signatures and don't have to pay this filing fee.

Alison Beam
Self
San Antonio, TX

This written testimony is to voice strong opposition to HB 232 -- if anything we should lower the filing fee and not raise it -- it's critical to expand the ability to run for office, not limit it. Too many accomplished would-be public servants are priced out of becoming a candidate.

I urge all members of the House Elections Committee to remove candidate barriers and not erect additional ones -- what is there to fear about a candidate running for office who cannot afford an excessive filing fee? Let their opinions and policy plans stand on their own merit, not on the amount of money in their bank account.
Thank you.

Kimberly Bridges Young
Self and Election Integrity Project of Nueces County
Corpus Christi, TX

I'm in favor of this bill. Raising the filing fee for a State Representative to the same amount as a State Senator is logical: they're both very important, prestigious positions, requiring more qualified candidates than smaller city and county races.

Pamela Woods
Election Integrity Project of Nueces County
Corpus Christi, TX

In favor of this bill. Seems logical.
Pamela Woods

Paul Laudadio
Self and Election Integrity Project of Nueces County
Corpus Christi, TX

HB 232
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Sharon Burnett
Nueces Co Election Integrity Project
Ingleside, TX

I am not in favor of this bill. Raising the filing fee for a State Rep to the same amount as a State Senator is illogical: they're both very important, prestigious positions requiring more qualified candidates than smaller city and county races.

Natalie Olsson
SELF, RETIRED
Corpus Christi, TX

I'm in favor of this bill. Raising the filing fee for a State Representative to the same amount as a State Senator is logical: they're both very important, prestigious positions, requiring more qualified candidates than smaller city and county races.

Bettye Kilgore
Self; NuecesCounty Election integrity Project of Nueces County
Kilgore, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Raising the filing fee for a state Representative to the same level as a State Senator is logical. They are both important, prestigious positions requiring more qualified candidates than smaller city and county races.

Michael Rittgers
Self - Retired
Corpus Christi, TX

I'm in favor of this bill. Raising the filing fee for a State Representative to the same amount as a State Senator is logical: They're both very important, prestigious positions, requiring more qualified candidates than smaller city and county races.

Guy Saponari
Self and Election Integrity Project of Nueces County.
corpus christi, TX

Yes in favor of this bill. it will help qualify candidates

Barry Smith
Self, Community College Instructor
Dallas, TX

Testimony against HB 232

HB 232 would nearly double the filing fee to run for the Texas House. What problems would this bill solve? None. It would discourage people from running, but we already have too few people running. Many candidates run unopposed in the general election. That is inherently bad for democracy. Democracy requires choices. Would HB 232 lead to better candidates? The quality of a candidate has nothing to do with the ability to pay a filing fee. The bill would eliminate third party and independent candidates, but these candidates aren't causing any problems. HB 232 would just make a bad situation worse.

Robert Garay
Self
Houston, TX

Dear Members of the Elections Committee,

My name is Robert Garay and I am providing testimony AGAINST HB 232. I live in TX House District 143, which is in Harris County.

I was initially on the fence on whether to support this bill. In principle, I do believe a filing fee should be necessary to be on the primary and general ballot to ensure the ballot is available to those who are paying to offset the cost of holding the election and to show the seriousness of their candidacy by which office they would like to be elected to.

I also initially believed that this increase in filing fee to \$1250 for state house was only due to wanting to be on the same level as the state senate as a co-equal branch of the legislature.

However, after listening to the bill author during today's hearing, I am now in opposition. The main reason the bill author gave to filing this bill was to offset the cost of inflation. By this reasoning, all state positions could be subject to similar or greater increases in filing fees down the road further limiting those who wish to participate in the election system.

The filing fee rate should be primarily based on the significance of the office and indexed to this standard, not be primarily tied to the cost of inflation of which the general public has no control to set.

Thank you for your attention, consideration, and the opportunity to provide public comment.

Sarah Berel-Harrop
self / Director of Religious Education & Intern Minister
Farmers Branch, TX

I oppose this bill because it raises further barriers to participation in democratic processes.