

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Elections
For HB 1631

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

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

I'm in favor of this bill. Pollwatchers are unpaid volunteers. Our group struggles to find people who are willing to do this, especially if there are required hours they have to "work". Removing the hours restriction will help us find volunteers.

Pamela Woods
County Citizens Defending Freedom - Election Integrity Project
Corpus Christi, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Because Poll watchers are unpaid volunteers, removing the hours restrictions will help us find more volunteers.

Pamela Woods

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

HB 1631
I'm in favor of this bill. Poll watchers are unpaid volunteers. Our group struggles to find people who are willing to do this, especially if there are required hours they have to "work". Removing the hours restriction will help us find volunteers.

Kelley Burnett
Myself and Nueces Co Election Integrity Project CCDF
Ingleside, TX

I'm in favor of this bill. Poll watchers are unpaid volunteers. Our group struggles to find people who are willing to do this, especially if there are required hours they have to "work". Removing the hours restriction will help us find volunteers.

Bettye Lemon

Self; Nueces County Election Integrity Project of Nueces County
Kilgore, TX

In favor of this bill. As poll watchers are unpaid volunteers and it is difficult for our group to find volunteers willing to do this and especially so if there are required hours they must "work" Removing the work hour restriction will help us to find volunteers willing to work.

Natalie Olsson

SELF, RETIRED
Corpus Christi, TX

I'm in favor of this bill. Poll watchers are unpaid volunteers. Our group struggles to find people who are willing to do this, especially if there are required hours they have to "work". Removing the hours restriction will help us find volunteers.

Michael Rittgers

Self - Retired
Corpus Christi, TX

I'm in favor of this bill. Poll watchers are unpaid volunteers. Our group struggles to find people who are willing to do this, especially if there are required hours they have to "work". Removing the hours restriction will help us find volunteers.

Jayne Burkhart

Self
Katy, TX

I'm in favor of this bill. Poll watchers are unpaid volunteers. Our group struggles to find people who are willing to do this, especially if there are required hours they have to "work". Removing the hours restriction will help us find volunteers.

ARTHUR NORMAN

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

I support this bill. As an unpaid volunteer poll watcher and having a full time job I wasn't always able to spend five continuous hours at the polling location. However it can be very beneficial to watch the poll opening process for the first hour or two, go to work and then come back for the last couple of hours to watch the poll closing process. Thank you for your consideration.

Guy Saponari

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

Yes will encourage unpaid poll watchers to participate in elections

Darcie Wilbanks

Self and Conservative Values Project
Houston, TX

I'm in favor of this bill. It's difficult to find people who are willing to be Poll Watchers especially since that is now the only position that is unpaid. Removing the hours restriction will help us fill more slots, and get more eyes on the process.

Robert Garay
Self
Houston, TX

Dear Members of the Elections Committee,

My name is Robert Garay and I am providing testimony FOR HB 1631. I live in TX House District 143, which is in Harris County.

I served as an election clerk during the 2022 General Election. Election watchers, regardless of political affiliation, provide a much-needed check and balance on election workers who graciously volunteer their time, energy, and effort to ensure the democratic process is fulfilled to its utmost extent.

As long as watchers are not openly interfering negatively in the conduct of elections, then allowing them to view the conduct of election workers ensures fairness and transparency so our democratic system can be trusted by all regardless of the outcome.

This bill only ensures watchers are not subject to a time clock that election judges must adhere to. Most precinct judges, as is, would probably not keep an active eye on watchers anyway as judges have various responsibilities throughout the day to keep tabs on. Not having them look over the shoulder of watchers based on the time limit they are allowed to stay at a specific polling location makes the judges' job slightly easier in this regard.

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

As an election judge, I oppose this bill. We have many responsibilities, including knowing who is present at the polling place. In the case of watchers, we have the additional concern of whether the watchers will intimidate poll workers and voters, notwithstanding their oaths and the training. Thus, allowing in and out privileges would allow that we could have a constant stream of different watchers in the polling place throughout the day.