

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Elections
For HB 1635

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

Whitney Siddons
Self
Frisco, TX

It is a matter of Texas state law that a person in compliance with the regulations of candidacy should have their name appear on the ballot for their race. Though this should be obvious and uncontentious, there appears to be a need for clarification and affirmation of this point of law. Therefore, I testify as a Texan that I strongly support HB1635 which prohibits a party official from denying a legitimate candidate a place on the ballot.

Kara Chasteen
Self
Bertram, TX

I am in support of this Bill.

Sally Fiveash
Self
Carrollton, TX

I hope that this bill will be passed by the legislature to make it clear that a party official does not have the power to deny a candidate from a place on a ballot if that candidate has complied with all of the requirements to be on a ballot. If this is not made a clear rule, some individuals may try and take it upon himself to make that call, and that is too much power in the hands of someone who is just supposed to oversee a process, not control it in some fashion.

Lana Allred
N/A
Leonard, TX

I support this bill.

Gilda Bayegan

Self, attorney.

Houston, TX

I hope you will pass this legislation. If our election laws are not strictly enforced, our elections are not sound and neither are the democratic principles upon which our system depends.

If a candidate qualifies to be on the ballot according to our election laws, their inclusion on the ballot should not be at the mercy of a party representative .

Sonya Smith

Bookkeeper

Jarrell, TX

I support Bill 1635

Susan Bell

self

Comfort, TX

I support HB 1635. Thank you for your time and consideration.

David Blassingame

Self. Blassingame Consulting.

Denton, TX

I support HB 1635.

Sid Hooper

self...retired

Pharr, TX

NO!

Janis Boulware

Self

Montgomery, TX

Whoever meets the qualifications should have the right to appear on the ballot, regardless of how distasteful that candidate might be, I am in support of this bill.

Margaret Daniel, Mrs

Self- retired

Katy, TX

If someone fulfills all the details to get on the ballot she or he should be placed on the ballot

Rhonda Anderson

Self

Longview, TX

I support this bill. This process has been abused on local level and should be prevented at the statewide level too

Lucia Rushton
self
Coppell, TX

This important piece of legislation seeks to protect the election process. I am in support of HB1635. This is a law, not to someone's individual discretion. We must act with integrity and fairness and I respectfully ask you to support this bill. thank you,

Martha (Ann) Kate
Self, retired
Montgomery, TX

I am in favor of the passage of HB 1635, and hope it passes quickly. We cannot allow a very small group of individuals to determine which candidates are on the ballot. Voters should have choices based on law for who they want to represent them. That way those choices are not constrained by only having candidates that have been determined by individuals who usually have an agenda and/or their own favorite candidates they want to see elected.

Lynda Higue
Myself
Lubbock, TX

I want to thank the committee for allowing us the voice our opinion.

I strongly support this HB1635 bill.

This HB 1635 gives some clarification to the Election code.

Appreciate your consideration of my support for HB1635.

Lynda Hogue
Lubbock,tx

Sherry Fox
Self
Montgomery, TX

I am in favor of this bill. No one should be denied the opportunity to be on the ballot for any position if they have complied with the Texas Election Code requirements. Party officials should not ever be allowed to undermine the democratic process by denying a legitimate candidate access to the ballot. That would be criminal. I am glad that this bill will clarify the election process. I hope it passes unanimously.

M. Diane Hivnor
Self - retired
Willis, TX

I am in favor of HB 1635 by Burrows.

Tracie deRoulac
Self
Montgomery, TX

No party should be able to determine who is on the ballot!

Carolyn Jones, Mrs
Self
Montgomery, TX

I am in favor of this bill and hope it passes!

Karen Darcy
Self - retired
Mpntgomery, TX

I am in favor of HB 1635 and request your support of said bill. Placement of candidates on the ballot should be in compliance with provisions set forth in election law and not determined by individuals who wish to limit who is eligible to run for office based on their own perspective.

Leigh Billingsley
North Shore Republican Women
Montgomery, TX

I want all qualified candidates to be able to run!

SHANI ROBERTSON
self
Lubbock, TX

Candidacy requirements are set by the constitution or Election statutes and should in no way be determined by an individual's bias, or personal preferences. As long as the candidate meets the requirements, they should be allowed to have their name on the ballot. Please make sure we protect the rights of citizens to run for public office.

Catherine Eckland, Mrs
Self
Montgomery, TX
Submit!!

Susannah Hulin
Self - Teacher
Willis, TX

Greetings House Committee members. Thank you for your time.
My name is Susannah Hulin and I stand in strong opposition to HB1635 as I see it's potential to destroy freedom.

I am an 7th generation Texan and my blood relatives fought for freedom, not for more government control.
I believe that by voting for this bill, you would be voting to put more control into the state's hands, taking it out of the people's hands.

It is for this reason that I urge you to oppose HB1635.
I am praying for each of you to have wisdom as you navigate this session.
Thank you.

Donita Clark
self--retired teacher
Lubbock, TX

Rep. Burrows' HB1635 should be approved according to law. The law allows each candidate's name on the ballot who complies with the requirements set forth by the Texas Election Code.
Thank you.

Jacqueline Lookabaugh
Self - educator
Montgomery, TX

I am totally in favor of HB1635. Cannot believe it is even a consideration.

Jean Tally
myself
Dallas, TX

I oppose HB1635 and ask the Committee to reject HB1635. Party leadership should be making rules for their own party and not the state government.

wes brumit
myself
LONGVIEW, TX

Speaking against the bill. As a former county chair, this bill would harm the locally elected county executive committees that do a great job in vetting local candidates. State officials should stay out of party business.

Frank Holman, Citizen
Self
Austin, TX

As an elected precinct chair for Hays County, it is clear and evident that this Bill oversteps its Legislative authority. The Part shall decide / determine its rules and how it operates. I ask that you Vote no.

Donna Kelm
Self, Accounting Manager
Odessa, TX

I hope for the sake of Ector County this bill is passed. In 2020 I was helping a friend run for City Council. I block walked and even volunteered at the Republican Party Headquarters to cook for First Responders. I soon learned that the Chair person, Tisha Crow ran everything and everyone. She had certain individuals she wanted to win and that was who you walked for. I chose not to walk for the upcoming mayor as I knew nothing about him and she chewed me out in front of several people.

A friend of mine, Richard wanted to run against her and he needed two precinct chairs to sign off to run. She wouldn't let him. I call Tisha and asked why not, she told me he was a Rhino and I really didn't know him. I explained I've known him and his family for years and he was legit Republican. She said no. I told her just let the people (voters) decide. She had black balled him with all the precinct chairs. If a precinct chair signed off on him they would be in trouble, literally. The one lady that did sign off was in a lot of trouble for doing so. So Tisha ran unopposed.

Another friend and I want to learn more about precinct chair and going to state convention. We went to our local convention at Odessa College. The lady in my precinct said she really didn't want to go and I could go in her place. She put my name down at the top of the list. Two other people were chosen that stated they didn't even want to go. So Tisha chose another person and not me.

The other lady that came with me, was the only person in her precinct. Tisha told her she would get back with her. Tisha found someone else to go in that place. Tisha had my friend show up at headquarters before a portion of her board. No phones were allowed. There was a person guarding the door, armed. My friend, whom I can't give her name as fear of being fired, was asked a few questions as was the other person. The group unanimously chose the other person. Whom I've heard hasn't been to any meetings.

Another friend, Lori that was running for a judge position, was asked to come up there and answer questions. If they approved of her then they would endorse her. Same thing happened, she had to leave her phone at the door and there was an armed person.

Richard this past year wanted to run for a precinct chair. Once again Tisha refused. I called her again and she said he is not a true Republican. I do not understand how one person can have this much control. I truly hope this bill is passed. Thank you for your time!

Glynis Chester
self- retired
Frisco, TX

I fully support HB 1635 and ask that you do the same. Through my volunteer activities, I've spent the better part of my adult life engaging people in the election process. Our system was built on the theory that the people are best suited to select their representatives through the voting process. The idea that any elected official or body "knows better" than the voters, or is "protecting" the voters, is the highest form of arrogance and an affront to every grassroots voter. Please protect the election process by supporting HB 1635. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

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

I'm not in favor of this bill. This appears to be the State telling the political parties what to do, which is overreach.

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

I am not in favor of this bill. I do not think the government needs to be getting in the middle of Political Parties affairs.
Pamela Woods

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

HB 1635
I'm not in favor of this bill. This appears to be the State telling the political parties what to do, which is overreach

Sharon Burnett
Self and Nueces Co Election Integrity Project
Ingleside, TX

I am not in favor of this bill. This appears to be the State telling the political parties what to do, which is overreach.

MONTIE SHELTON
myself
HUNTSVILLE, TX

It is never a good idea to take power away from local citizens and centralize it in Austin. Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Natalie Olsson
SELF, RETIRED
Corpus Christi, TX

I'm not in favor of this bill. This appears to be the State telling the political parties what to do, which is overreach.

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

I am not in favor of this bill. It appears to be a case of the State telling the political parties what to do which is overreach.

Michael Rittgers
Self - Retired
Corpus Christi, TX

I'm not in favor of this bill. This appears to be the State telling the political parties what to do, which is overreach.

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

No Not in favor. do not support further restrictions on parties

MONICA CARSON
self
Bastrop, TX

The Texas Election Code applies to all general, special and primary elections held in this state. Tex. Elec. Code § 1.002. Candidacy requirements are set by constitution or statute. See, e.g., Tex. Elec. Code § 141.001. HB 1635 seeks to reinforce that it is the law, not an individual's discretion, that determines whether a candidate's name appears on the ballot. Please contact the Members and Clerk of the Elections Committee (contact information below) to express your support for HB 1635.

ARTHUR NORMAN

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

I am against this bill. It appears to me that this bill is trying to meddle into political parties and who may or may not be eligible in the next presidential primaries in Texas, thus potentially thwarting the will of Texas voters.

Darcie Wilbanks

Self and Conservative Values Project
Houston, TX

I'm not in favor of this bill. I don't understand why these changes would be enacted. Shouldn't the political parties be able to conduct their participation as they see fit?

Rachel Horton

Self -PR/Communications - serve as Prct Chair in Parker County, SREC for SD 30
Weatherford, TX

I cannot be present, but I hope these comments may be added to the record.

I write in opposition to the bill as laid out. It purports to address issues within a private political party.

Party's have made great strides towards privatizing primary elections processes so that the party's manage the selection of our "champions" for the general elections in November.

If the primaries need to be closed then we need to have the opportunity to close the primary.

But it should not be the states responsibility to police the primary process. Thank you.