

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Elections
For HB 5131

Compiled on: Thursday, March 30, 2023 10:10 PM

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.

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

Jim Lennon
KIngwood TEA Party
Cleveland, TX

Kingwood TEA Party is for HB 5131

James Lennon
self -
Cleveland, TX

I am for HB 5131

Rhonda Anderson
self
Longview, TX

I am FOR 5131

Daniel Cotts
Daniel T.A. Cotts, PLLC
Self and Election Integrity Project of Nueces County
Corpus Christi, TX

I am in favor of this bill. Random audits will go a long way toward verifying that our elections are fair and accurate reflections of the voters.

Julie Kellogg
Self as election worker
Aransas Pass, TX

Vote yes for this bill. Random audits help in verifying that our elections are fair and accurate reflections of the voters. Just like all financial companies need to be audited, election offices must be also audited. And penalties for non-compliance must be enforced.

Ken Weston
Self and Nueces County Election Integrity Project
Corpus Christi, TX

I favor this bill. Randomized audits of our elections are a necessary check on the accuracy of citizens vote totals.

Chris Donofrio
Self
The Woodlands, TX

I oppose HB 5131.
Its language is overly broad. The selection criteria are unspecified. It provides too much of a focus on rural areas. It is rife with opportunities for politically motivated decisions to decrease faith in our election system. That goes for times when Democrats or Republicans control the Legislature and the Governorship.
Sincerely,
Chris J Donofrio

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

I am in favor of this bill. Random audits go a long way towards verifying that our elections are fair and accurate reflections of the voters. The audits I have read to date indicate serious election integrity problems and highlight many gaps in our election processes. I am surprised that only four counties out of 254 are currently audited. That is only 1.57%. In my line of work, we consider 5-10% as the minimum threshold to be randomly audited. However, ensuring that the few counties audited are some of the most densely populated (which is the case in the audits I read) helps to offset the meager audit rate. Adding the potential for a fifth county audit is a step in the right direction.

Steve Hadley
SELF
Spring, TX

No, it is not needed and is political opinion.

Rosalind James, Mrs
Self. Retired
Cypress, TX

Dear House Election Committee members, Please vote no on HB 1632. The bill attempts to switch watcher training from the Secretary of State to county elections official in charge of training, testing and certifying election watchers. The purpose of election watchers is to monitor county officials at the polls, at the ballot board, at central counting stations, and at recounts. This bill sets up a complete conflict of interest putting watchers under the control and approval of those they must be watching. A watchers job is to raise concerns when county election officials commit irregularities, illegalities and/or fraud at polls, the ballot board and the central counting stations. You must help secure the integrity and honesty of our elections to protect our citizens and growing children of the tyranny that has followed countries who do not have accountable election. Please vote no on HB 1642. Thank you. Sincerely, Rosalind James

Elizabeth Wally

Self

Dallas, TX

Our Texas election are fair and safe as attested to by the fact that all those elected in the years gone by and in 2020 are in office and here in Texas voting in Austin. Audits are a good thing and have already been set up for our elections. They are time-consuming and when more are added to increase the load on the election workers and duplicate what is already been done or planned for the reason is clear - punishing busy work for the heck of it. Have any of these bill authors (or those copying the model GOP bills sent them) ever worked an election? I doubt it. No need for more audits. It's easy to guess the counties they want to audit.

Marian Stanko

Self / retired

San Antonio, TX

Supports.

Guy Saponari

Nueces Election Integrity Project

corpus christi, TX

I support this bill, it will increase the assurance for voting integrity and public confidence.

Maureen Voosen

self - architect

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill as it creates a low standard for election audits in certain counties.

Jesse Suarez

Self / Electrician

Corpus Christi, TX

I'm in favor of this bill. Random unbiased selections for county audits are needed to restore confidence in the integrity of our voting system.

EVE MARGOLIS

self

Austin, TX

Oppose this bill. A thinly veiled attempt to usurp local control of elections.

Sharon Kelley Burnett

Self

Ingleside, TX

Hello!

I am in favor of this bill. Random audits go a long way towards verifying that our elections are fair and accurate reflections of the voters.

Thank you,

Kelley

Kendal Gladish, Ms

Self--Retired editor and fundraiser

Austin, TX

I OPPOSE this bill as an active and consistent voter in Texas. This is an unnecessary complication to the conduct of free and fair elections. I trust election officials to adhere to current guidelines to ensure that elections are open and legal.

Bonnie Seelig

Self Retired

Spicewood, TX

FOR

I support all audits, whether in small or large counties.

Bonnie Seelig

Self Retired

Spicewood, TX

FOR

I support audits for all counties regardless of size.

Carl Jones, TDP Non Urban Rural Caucus State Field Coordinator

TDP Non Urban Rural Caucus

Spicewood, TX

I OPPOSE HB 5131. This bill is another useless Republican bill with a devious agenda. To conduct “random” audits in “certain” counties to find voting “irregularities” is just another way of describing what Texas Republicans in the Lege really fear—large democratic voter turnout in urban counties. If Republican candidates don’t like the election results they can play the voter fraud card. Sound familiar? Of course! This is a chickens*** Republican reaction to the Big Lie of 2020!

Bethany Johnson

Self, professor

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill, as it is one of many bills proposed this session that seek to undermine free, fair, efficient and inclusive democracy in Texas. Unjust and partisan interference in election policies ultimately harms all Texans.