

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Elections
For SB 924

Compiled on: Thursday, May 4, 2023 11:42 PM

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Hearing Date: May 4, 2023 8:00 AM

Catherine Viens, Mrs.

self

College Station, TX

Please make every effort to ensure the integrity of Texas elections. The 2024 election cycle will be the most determinative election to date. Securing elections is not only a Party priority, but it is a priority for every citizen who takes this duty and privilege seriously; we expect the same from our legislative representatives.

Charlene Reagan

Self and True Texas Project

SPICEWOOD, TX

We are FOR SB924.

Bill Sargent, Former Chief Deputy Clerk for Elections, Galveston County

self

Galveston, TX

On the bill:

I have no problem with allowing precincts to be combined but want to the committee to consider the impact this might have on the over ninety counties that utilize countywide voting on election day. The code allows counties that are approved for countywide voting to reduce the number of polling locations down to 50% of the total number of precincts within the county. If you allow the combining of precincts within counties, you could also be shrinking the requirements for election day polling places in countywide vote center counties.

One could improve this legislation by having it not apply to those counties that are participating in the countywide voting program. By doing so, the number of polling locations in those counties will not be impacted.

Elizabeth Burkett

Self - retired

Bellaire, TX

Please vote against this bill - it will absolutely ruin local elections!

Bonnie Seelig
Retired/Self
Spicewood, TX

Support SB 924

By consolidating precincts, the positives would be in the savings to the taxpayers for holding various elections for minimal populations. It sounds like a win-win as long as the polling locations can be centrally located. We are talking about isolated and sparsely populated locations that need assistance in carrying out state government obligations.

Janis Reinken
Self / Attorney
Austin, TX

With due respect for the Author, I oppose SB 924 because allowing the combination of precincts as proposed leaves open the possibility that the outcomes as implemented could violate the Voting Rights Act and disenfranchise voters without providing them a timely remedy. SB 924 would allow combination of certain voting precincts, and is bracketed by population to exclude the top 5 counties (Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar and Travis). This formula places the next 15 most populous counties within this bracket (in order): Collin (1,064,465), Denton, Hidalgo, El Paso, Fort Bend, Montgomery, Williamson, Cameron, Brazoria, Bell, Nueces, Galveston, Lubbock, Webb and McLennan (260,579). See <https://www.texascounties.net/statistics/population2020.htm>. Several of these counties contain college campuses with substantial voting age residents: for example, North Texas, Baylor, Southwestern, and Texas Tech University. Surely the number of available polling places in these 15 populous counties is not so limited that it would be truly necessary or appropriate to combine a precinct to include up to 10,000 voters. SB 924 could actually allow the removal of polling locations or decrease the number of voters, in order to consolidate precincts. Also, this bracket could mean that just one polling location would exist for the 92 counties with a population less than 10,000, by allowing a single polling place in those counties to serve up to 10,000 voters. For SB 924 to go forward, there needs to be a compelling explanation to justify this bracketing proposal in order to combine voting precincts. The facts should make it clear that SB 924 does not dilute voting strength, representation, or discouraging participation of any groups in a way that violates or circumvents the Voting Rights Act. There should be enforcement penalties for violating or circumventing the VRA, and there are none. Please do not advance SB 924. Respectfully, Janis Reinken

Marisa Williams
Self/SAHM
McKinney, TX

I support SB 924 as it would make Elections easier to run in areas with a smaller population of registered voters.