

By: Shaheen, Capriglione, Metcalf

H.B. No. 493

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to ineligibility to serve as a poll watcher.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 33.006(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A certificate of appointment must:

(1) be in writing and signed by the appointing authority or, for an appointment for a write-in candidate under Section 33.004, by each of the voters making the appointment;

(2) indicate the capacity in which the appointing authority is acting;

(3) state the name, residence address, and voter registration number of the appointee and be signed by the appointee;

(4) identify the election and the precinct polling place or other location at which the appointee is to serve;

(5) in an election on a measure, identify the measure if more than one is to be voted on and state which side of the measure the appointee represents; and

(6) contain an affidavit executed by the appointee stating that the appointee:

(A) will not have possession of a device capable of recording images or sound or that the appointee will disable or deactivate the device while serving as a watcher; and

1                    (B) has not been finally convicted of a felony of  
2 the first or second degree or a felony offense in connection with  
3 conduct directly attributable to an election.

4            SECTION 2. Section 33.035, Election Code, is amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            Sec. 33.035. INELIGIBILITY OF PERSON CONVICTED OF CERTAIN  
7 OFFENSES [~~ELECTION OFFENSE~~]. A person is ineligible to serve as a  
8 watcher in an election if the person has been finally convicted of a  
9 felony:

10                    (1) of the first or second degree; or

11                    (2) [an offense] in connection with conduct directly  
12 attributable to an election.

13            SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.