

1-1 By: Shaheen, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Hughes) H.B. No. 493
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 14, 2025;
1-3 May 15, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on State
1-4 Affairs; May 23, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 7, Nays 1; May 23, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Hughes	X		
1-9	Paxton	X		
1-10	Bettencourt	X		
1-11	Birdwell	X		
1-12	Hall	X		
1-13	Hinojosa of Nueces		X	
1-14	Middleton	X		
1-15	Parker	X		
1-16	Perry		X	
1-17	Schwertner		X	
1-18	Zaffirini	X		

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to ineligibility to serve as a poll watcher.
1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
1-23 SECTION 1. Section 33.006(b), Election Code, is amended to
1-24 read as follows:

1-25 (b) A certificate of appointment must:
1-26 (1) be in writing and signed by the appointing
1-27 authority or, for an appointment for a write-in candidate under
1-28 Section 33.004, by each of the voters making the appointment;
1-29 (2) indicate the capacity in which the appointing
1-30 authority is acting;
1-31 (3) state the name, residence address, and voter
1-32 registration number of the appointee and be signed by the
1-33 appointee;
1-34 (4) identify the election and the precinct polling
1-35 place or other location at which the appointee is to serve;
1-36 (5) in an election on a measure, identify the measure
1-37 if more than one is to be voted on and state which side of the
1-38 measure the appointee represents; and
1-39 (6) contain an affidavit executed by the appointee
1-40 stating that the appointee:
1-41 (A) will not have possession of a device capable
1-42 of recording images or sound or that the appointee will disable or
1-43 deactivate the device while serving as a watcher; and
1-44 (B) has not been finally convicted of a felony of
1-45 the first or second degree or a felony offense in connection with
1-46 conduct directly attributable to an election.

1-47 SECTION 2. Section 33.035, Election Code, is amended to
1-48 read as follows:

1-49 Sec. 33.035. INELIGIBILITY OF PERSON CONVICTED OF CERTAIN
1-50 OFFENSES [~~ELECTION OFFENSE~~]. A person is ineligible to serve as a
1-51 watcher in an election if the person has been finally convicted of a
1-52 felony:

1-53 (1) of the first or second degree; or
1-54 (2) [~~an offense~~] in connection with conduct directly
1-55 attributable to an election.

1-56 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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