By: Swanson

H.B. No. 1476

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to a ballot option to not vote for any candidate.

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

4   SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 52, Election Code, is

5 amended by adding Section 52.0685 to read as follows:

6   Sec. 52.0685. OPTION TO AFFIRMATIVELY CHOOSE NOT TO VOTE.

7 (a) Voters shall be given the opportunity to select "None of the

8 above" instead of voting for a candidate appearing on the ballot or

9 the list of write-in candidates for each race.

10   (b) A vote under this section does not count for the purpose

11 of determining which candidate received a majority of votes.

12   (c) The secretary of state shall prescribe the form and

13 manner of placing the option "None of the above" on the ballot.

14   SECTION 2. Sections 52.070(a) and (b), Election Code, are

15 amended to read as follows:

16   (a) A shape for voting shall be printed to the left of:

17   (1) each candidate's name on a ballot; and

18   (2) the option "None of the above" for each office to

19 be voted on in the election.

20   (b) Immediately below "OFFICIAL BALLOT," the following

21 instruction shall be printed: "Vote for the candidate of your

22 choice in each race by placing an 'X' or filling in the shape beside

23 the candidate's name or beside "None of the above"."

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