

By: Bhojani, Schofield, DeAyala, Bucy,
Raymond

H.B. No. 2253

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2253:

By: Shaheen

C.S.H.B. No. 2253

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority to cancel certain elections on a measure
to authorize the issuance of bonds.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 2.081, Election Code, is
amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2.081. CANCELLATION OF ~~[MOOT]~~ MEASURE.

SECTION 2. Section 2.081, Election Code, is amended by
adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2) and amending Subsections (b) and
(c) to read as follows:

(a-1) Not later than the 74th day before election day, the
authority that ordered an election on a measure to authorize the
issuance of bonds may cancel the election on the measure if:

(1) not earlier than the 90th day before the date of
the election on the measure, the governor issues a disaster
declaration under Chapter 418, Government Code, regarding a natural
disaster or other disaster threatening the health, safety, or
general welfare of the authority's residents; and

(2) the governing body of the authority, after holding
an open meeting under Subsection (a-2), determines by majority vote
that canceling the election on the measure is necessary:

(A) due to damage to the authority's election
system;

(B) to avoid harm to the authority's election

1 workers; or

2 (C) to avoid harm to voters within the
3 authority's jurisdiction.

4 (a-2) The governing body of an authority may hold an open
5 meeting solely to deliberate whether to cancel an election on a
6 measure to authorize the issuance of bonds due to the issuance of a
7 disaster declaration described by Subsection (a-1). To the extent
8 practicable under the circumstances, the governing body shall
9 provide reasonable public notice of the meeting and allow members
10 of the public and the press to observe the meeting.

11 (b) If an election on a measure is canceled or the measure is
12 removed from the ballot ~~[declared moot]~~ under this section ~~[and is~~
13 ~~removed from the ballot]~~, the authority holding the election shall
14 post notice of the cancellation or removal ~~[declaration]~~ during
15 early voting by personal appearance and on election day, at each
16 polling place that would have been used for the election on the
17 measure.

18 (c) A county election officer, as defined by Section 31.091,
19 may use a single combined notice of cancellation under Subsection
20 (b) for all authorities:

21 (1) for which the officer provides election services
22 under contract; and

23 (2) that cancel an election on a measure or remove a
24 measure from the ballot ~~[declare an election moot]~~ under Subsection
25 (a) or (a-1).

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.