

By: Sparks

S.B. No. 1888

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to reconstitution of the jury wheel and juror qualifications in certain counties.

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

SECTION 1. Section 62.001, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (d) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (a-1), the ~~[The]~~ jury wheel must be reconstituted by using, as the source:

(1) the names of all persons on the current voter registration lists from all the precincts in the county; and

(2) all names on a current list to be furnished by the Department of Public Safety, showing the residents ~~[citizens]~~ of the county who:

(A) hold a valid Texas driver's license or a valid personal identification card or certificate issued by the department; and

(B) are not disqualified from jury service under Section 62.102(a)(1) ~~[62.102(1)]~~, (2), or (8).

(a-1) In a county with a population of less than 25,000, the jury wheel may be reconstituted by using, in addition to the sources required under Subsection (a):

(1) the names of all persons on the current voter registration lists from all the precincts in one or more counties

contiguous to the summoning county; and

(2) all names on a list required by Subsection (a)(1) showing the residents of one or more counties contiguous to the summoning county who:

(A) hold a valid Texas driver's license or a valid personal identification card or certificate issued by the Department of Public Safety; and

(B) are not disqualified from jury service under Section 62.102(a)(1), (2), or (8).

(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a) or (a-1), the names of persons listed on a register of persons exempt from jury service may not be placed in the jury wheel, as provided by Sections 62.108, 62.109, 62.113, 62.114, and 62.115.

(d) The lists [~~list~~] required by Subsections [~~Subsection~~] (a)(1) and (a-1)(1) must exclude the names of persons on the suspense list maintained under Section 15.081, Election Code.

SECTION 2. Section 62.0132(g), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(g) The information contained in a completed questionnaire may be disclosed to:

(1) a judge assigned to hear a cause of action in which the respondent to the questionnaire is a potential juror;

(2) court personnel;

(3) a litigant and a litigant's attorney in a cause of action in which the respondent to the questionnaire is a potential juror; and

(4) other than information provided that is related to

1 Section 62.102(a)(8) [~~62.102(8)~~] or (9), the voter registrar of a  
2 county in connection with any matter of voter registration or the  
3 administration of elections.

4 SECTION 3. Section 62.102, Government Code, is amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 Sec. 62.102. GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR JURY SERVICE. (a)  
7 Except as provided by Subsection (b), a [A] person is disqualified  
8 to serve as a petit juror unless the person:

- 9 (1) is at least 18 years of age;
- 10 (2) is a citizen of the United States;
- 11 (3) is a resident of this state and of the county in  
12 which the person is to serve as a juror;
- 13 (4) is qualified under the constitution and laws to  
14 vote in the county in which the person is to serve as a juror;
- 15 (5) is of sound mind and good moral character;
- 16 (6) is able to read and write;
- 17 (7) has not served as a petit juror for six days during  
18 the preceding three months in the county court or during the  
19 preceding six months in the district court;
- 20 (8) has not been convicted of misdemeanor theft or a  
21 felony; and
- 22 (9) is not under indictment or other legal accusation  
23 for misdemeanor theft or a felony.

24 (b) A person is not disqualified under Subsections (a)(3)  
25 and (4) to serve as a juror in a county with a population of less  
26 than 25,000 if that person is:

- 27 (1) a resident of a county contiguous to the summoning

1 county; and

2 (2) qualified under the constitution and laws to vote  
3 in the contiguous county.

4 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
5 to the qualifications of a person summoned for jury service on or  
6 after the effective date of this Act. The qualifications of a  
7 person summoned for jury service before the effective date of this  
8 Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the summons was  
9 made, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

10 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.