

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Elections

For HJR 161

Compiled on: Thursday, April 24, 2025 11:29 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: April 24, 2025 10:30 AM - or upon final adjourn./recess or bill referral if permission granted

Richard Steenson
GAWTP and Self (retired)
Tyler, TX

Restricting voting privileges to citizens of the United States should not even be debatable, but non-citizens have been found on voter rolls through weakness in our verification processes. Please give Texas voters the opportunity to strengthen election integrity via amendment in November.

LAURA GALLIER
Self - retired CPA
HOUSTON, TX

Please oppose this unnecessary bill. People who are not US Citizens are not allowed to vote in this state. There are a lot of serious issues to address in Texas, like the grid. Please don't waste time on this nonsense bill.

Karen Macias, Mrs
Self
Cibolo, TX

I support HJR 161 by Noble!

John Dunlap, Mr
Self
Bowie, TX

Voters must be a verifiable resident in the State of Texas and a verifiable citizen of the State of Texas.

Sylvia Coulson
self- Dietitian
Waxahachie, TX

I support this.

Michele Wallace, Mrs.

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I am For this.

Kellye Justice

Self Employed

Waxahachie, TX

I am FOR this HJR.

Lisa Healy

Self

Midlothian, TX

I support this bill. Please vote yes. Thank you for your consideration.

Beverly Gatlin

Self

Italy, TX

I support this Resolution.

Sharon Tryon

Self

Waxahachie, TX

Yes I support this bill

Andra Haney

CKKC, self

Boerne, TX

This is another obvious one. Please support HJR 161!

Debbie Wolgemuth, Ms

Self, Accounting

Waco, TX

SUPPORT

Brandon Burden, Mr.

Daniel Nation

Anna, TX

Dear Committee,

Please vote yes on HJR 161 by Rep. Noble. Individuals must be U.S. citizens in order to vote. This positive statement needs to be codified in our state constitution. This is just common sense. In what other country do non-citizens vote? It just doesn't happen. So, why should it happen here? Please do the right thing. Let's codify this into law. Thank you for your consideration.

Mabel Simpson
Law Firm
Weatherford, TX

Confirmation of U. S. Citizenship is critical to the privilege to vote in this State, no exceptions.

Ronnie Gatlin
Self
Italy, TX

I support this Resolution.

MICHELLE EVANS
WILLIAMSON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY
GEORGETOWN, TX
STRONGLY SUPPORT

Jennifer Holler
Self
Buda, TX

Abolish this. People who come to the United States legally and obtain legal citizen status should be allowed to vote because they pay taxes and are American citizens.

Linda Ricks
Self
Midlothian, TX

Dear Members,

I strongly support this bill! Please vote it out of committee.

Thanks,
Linda Ricks

Cristian Banu
Self - ramp agent
Cedar Creek, TX

I fully support this bill.

Debbie Wolgemuth, Ms
Self, Accounting
Waco, TX

SUPPORT

Julie croy, mrs
self
China Spring, TX
support

THEODORE CROY
SELF
China Spring, TX
SUPPORT

Susan Bell
self
Kerrville, TX

This is an excellent idea that needs to become of the Texas Constitution. Texas must put ALL safeguards possible to secure our elections against fraud. I support HJR 161

Gail Perez
Texas
Killeen, TX

Must have U. S. A. Citizenship to vote

Pamela Woods, PRESIDENT
Election Integrity Project of Nueces County
Corpus Christi, TX, TX

I DO NOT SEE THE NEED FOR THIS RESOLUTION, THERE FORE WE ARE NOT FOR THIS RESOLUTION

Kathy Haigler, Mrs.
self
Dale, TX

Rep Noble has provided HJR161 as a proactive measure to protect the integrity of ALL Texas elections.

Statutorily, an individual must be a registered voter to vote in Texas elections and citizenship is a current requirement for voter registration, but the Texas Constitution does not explicitly limit Texas non-citizen voting in state or local elections.

With several other states allowing their local governments to implement a voting mechanism to allow non-citizens to vote, Texas should proactively amend the constitution to ensure that Texas municipalities cannot implement such policies should statute change.

In efforts to preserve the integrity of ALL elections, maintaining that only citizens have the right to vote will create additional safeguards to keep our Texas elections secure.

This constitutional amendment will make it harder to reverse current statute and the general voting public will know its repeal would require a future constitutional amendment.

This is the companion for SJR37 by Senator Birdwell, which passed in the Senate 28-3.

It's a great bill.

We need it, and I humbly ask you to vote favorably to move the bill post-haste to Calendars.

Thank you!

Kevin A Hale
The Libertarian Party of Texas
Dallas, TX

Opposing Symbolic Constitutional Amendments That Risks Unintended Consequences

HJR 161 proposes a constitutional amendment to explicitly ban non-citizens from voting in Texas elections. While Texas law already restricts voting to U.S. citizens, this amendment unnecessarily duplicates existing legal protections and opens the door for future government overreach under the guise of election integrity.

The Constitution Is Not for Symbolic Gestures

The Libertarian Party of Texas (LPTexas) believes that constitutional amendments should protect individual rights and limit government—not serve as political messaging (Platform § I.5.d, § I.6.b). HJR 161 adds no new protections, but it does expand the list of constitutional voter restrictions, potentially leading to misuse or misinterpretation that could target legal residents or suppress legitimate votes through confusion or administrative overreach.

We Support Secure Elections—Without Expanding State Power

LPTexas supports transparent and secure elections. However, we oppose creating new constitutional language that merely restates what is already law (Texas Election Code § 11.002) while risking greater state intrusion into personal documentation and verification processes. The right to vote is sacred and should not be subjected to vague expansions of state enforcement authority.

Preserving the Principle of Limited Government

Rather than protect liberty, HJR 161 sets a precedent for expanding the state constitution to mirror temporary political trends. LPTexas rejects this approach. Laws exist to enforce eligibility. Constitutional amendments should be reserved for substantive change, not redundancy.

Conclusion

The Libertarian Party of Texas opposes HJR 161. This proposal does not enhance election integrity—it adds symbolic language to the Texas Constitution that could empower unnecessary regulation and discrimination. We urge lawmakers and voters to reject this amendment and preserve the Constitution as a shield for liberty, not a tool for political posturing.

Patricia Cummings

Self

Lorena, TX

I fully support this bill.

Kevin Chen

Self

Austin, TX

I am strongly opposed to this bill. People who live in the state, contribute to its economy and daily functioning, and pay taxes (more than some people do, even!) should be permitted to participate in the democratic process regarding the laws that govern their lives.

Timothy Mann

Self

Buda, TX

I oppose this bill. Non US citizens are already not allowed to vote in Texas. There is no need for this bill and no need to waste voters time on passing this amendment.

Bonita McRae

Self/retired

Rockport, TX

Please pass this bill

Felicia Miyakawa

Self, none

Round Rock, TX

I oppose this HJR. It's already in the election code that non-citizens cannot vote. We don't need to put this to a vote by the people because it is ALREADY LAW.

Sophia Mirto

Self

Austin, TX

I do not appreciate trying to amend our sacred constitution for something that is already super illegal. This is redundant and trying to solve a problem that is already solved.

Emily French

Common Cause Texas

Austin, TX

I am here to testify in opposition to HJR 161. Article VI, Section 2 of the Texas Constitution says that "every person subject to none of the disqualifications provided by Section 1 of this article or by a law enacted under that section who is a citizen of the United States and who is a resident of this state shall be deemed a qualified voter." This requirement is already in our constitution. To put it on a November Constitutional Amendment ballot would confuse voters, who may think that noncitizen voters are currently able to vote (which is NOT the case). Because this could undermine confidence in elections, we oppose this resolution. Thank you.

Jake Wilson

Self - CPA

Fort Worth, TX

I support HJR 161.

We should value the non-citizens who live in the United States as our neighbors created in the image of God.

However, voting in United States elections should be limited only to citizens of the United States, to protect our elections from foreign interference.

Also, thank you Representative Noble for coauthoring HB 1425 today.

Thank You,

Jake Wilson

Fort Worth, TX

SD9 and HD91

Brittany Klemmack

Self

Round Rock, TX

This is redundant and makes it harder for marginalized groups to vote

Sarah Beck

Self

Austin, TX

I am a born and raised Texan and I urge you to vote AGAINST this bill. HJR 161 is a constitutional amendment changing the language around citizenship requirement for voting but does not provide any benefit. This bill is unnecessary and unwanted. Please vote NO.