

**SENATE AMENDMENTS**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Printing**

By: Shaheen, Capriglione, Metcalf

H.B. No. 493

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to ineligibility to serve as a poll watcher.

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

SECTION 1. Section 33.006(b), Election Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A certificate of appointment must:

(1) be in writing and signed by the appointing authority or, for an appointment for a write-in candidate under Section 33.004, by each of the voters making the appointment;

(2) indicate the capacity in which the appointing authority is acting;

(3) state the name, residence address, and voter registration number of the appointee and be signed by the appointee;

(4) identify the election and the precinct polling place or other location at which the appointee is to serve;

(5) in an election on a measure, identify the measure if more than one is to be voted on and state which side of the measure the appointee represents; and

(6) contain an affidavit executed by the appointee stating that the appointee:

(A) will not have possession of a device capable of recording images or sound or that the appointee will disable or deactivate the device while serving as a watcher; and

1                    (B) has not been finally convicted of a felony of  
2 the first or second degree or a felony offense in connection with  
3 conduct directly attributable to an election.

4            SECTION 2. Section 33.035, Election Code, is amended to  
5 read as follows:

6            Sec. 33.035. INELIGIBILITY OF PERSON CONVICTED OF CERTAIN  
7 OFFENSES [~~ELECTION OFFENSE~~]. A person is ineligible to serve as a  
8 watcher in an election if the person has been finally convicted of a  
9 felony:

10                    (1) of the first or second degree; or

11                    (2) [an offense] in connection with conduct directly  
12 attributable to an election.

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

# ADOPTED

MAY 26 2025

*Lately Lewis*  
Secretary of the Senate

FLOOR AMENDMENT NO. 1

BY: *[Signature]*

Amend H.B. No. 493 (senate committee report) as follows:

(1) In SECTION 1 of the bill, in amended Section 33.006(b), Election Code (page 1, line 46), between "election" and the underlined period, insert "or if so convicted has, not later than 20 years before the date of the election in which the appointee is appointed to serve:

(i) fully discharged the appointee's sentence, including any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision; or

(ii) completed a period of probation ordered by a court".

(2) In SECTION 2 of the bill, in amended Section 33.035, Election Code (page 1, line 50), strike "A" and substitute "(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a [A]".

(3) In SECTION 2 of the bill, at the end of amended Section 33.035, Election Code (page 1, between lines 55 and 56), add the following:

(b) A person who has been finally convicted of a felony described by Subsection (a) may serve as a watcher in an election if more than 20 years have passed since the date on which the person:

(1) fully discharged the person's sentence, including any term of incarceration, parole, or supervision; or

(2) completed a period of probation ordered by a court.

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**May 27, 2025**

**TO:** Honorable Dustin Burrows, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

**FROM:** Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB493** by Shaheen (Relating to ineligibility to serve as a poll watcher.), **As Passed 2nd House**

<b>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b>
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It is assumed that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed using existing resources.

**Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 307 Secretary of State

**LBB Staff:** JMc, WP, FV, GP, LCO

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**May 21, 2025**

**TO:** Honorable Bryan Hughes, Chair, Senate Committee on State Affairs

**FROM:** Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB493** by Shaheen (Relating to ineligibility to serve as a poll watcher.), **As Engrossed**

<b>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b>
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It is assumed that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed using existing resources.

**Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 307 Secretary of State

**LBB Staff:** JMc, WP, FV, GP, LCO

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**March 28, 2025**

**TO:** Honorable Matt Shaheen, Chair, House Committee on Elections

**FROM:** Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB493** by Shaheen (relating to ineligibility to serve as a poll watcher.). **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

<b>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b>
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It is assumed that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed using existing resources.

**Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 307 Secretary of State

**LBB Staff:** JMc, FV, GP, LCO

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**March 17, 2025**

**TO:** Honorable Matt Shaheen, Chair, House Committee on Elections

**FROM:** Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB493** by Shaheen (Relating to ineligibility to serve as a poll watcher.). **As Introduced**

<b>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b>
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It is assumed that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed using existing resources.

**Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 307 Secretary of State

**LBB Staff:** JMc, FV, LCO, GP