

Texas Election Code Bills - 2017

Presentation to
League of Independent Voters
March 25, 2017

Tom Glass

Elimination of One Punch, Straight Ticket Voting LIV is in full support!

- HB 25 – Ron Simmons
- SB 2175 – Bryan Hughes, companion
- Wired in House. Passed Elections Committee
- SB 1989 – Donna Campbell bill for elimination of one punch, straight ticket for judicial races only – LIV wants to go all the way, therefore we do not support this bill.

Petition Bills for City Charter Amendments

- **SB 488 – Paul Bettencourt – SUPPORT**
 - Allows citizens to appeal ballot proposition language by city to Secretary of State (to determine if misleading)
 - Requires Sec of State to create petition form
 - Requires check of signatures within 30 days, or proposition goes to voters
 - No restrictions on who may circulate petitions
- **SB 466 – Eddie Lucio – Petition Bill**
 - Adds language from Texas Supreme Court that proposition not mislead voters. (also in SB 488)
- **HB 907 – Matt Shaheen – Secretary of State Form for Petitions (we have offered an amendment – may support)**

Election Integrity Bills We Like

- **HB 1711 - Cole Hefner / SB 829 – Bryan Hughes**
 - Paper audit trails required for Direct Electronic Voting machines.
 - Voters have to be able to view, but not handle paper ballot before casting electronic voting.
 - Electronic record is official unless recount. Under recount, paper is official.
- **HB 405 – Bob Hall**
 - Reduces early voting period to start a week later (10th day prior)
 - Requires that voting systems “use a paper record or produces a paper receipt that can be used to verify the tabulation of electronic voting system results.”
 - Prohibits Direct Recording Electronic voting systems.
 - Adds automatic recount for precincts where total votes in the precinct differs by at least 0.5 percent from voters who signed roster.

Election Integrity Bills (continued)

- **HB 944– Dennis Paul**
 - Creates Class B Misdemeanor when election officials prevent County Chairs or delegates from supervising a primary election.
- **HB 405 – Bob Hall**
 - Reduces early voting period to start a week later (10th day prior)
 - Requires that voting systems “use a paper record or produces a paper receipt that can be used to verify the tabulation of electronic voting system results.”
 - Prohibits Direct Recording Electronic voting systems.
 - Adds automatic recount for precincts where total votes in the precinct differs by at least 0.5 percent from voters who signed roster.

Miscellaneous Election Bills

- **Top Two, Jungle Primary Bill**
 - HB 1996 – Rafael Anchia (LIV does not support this bill)
- **Faithless Elector Bills – LIV does not support**
 - HB 771 – Mike Schofield, et. al. – faithless vote not counted
 - HB 1391 – Pat Fallon – faithless vote not counted and \$5K civil penalty
- **Party Registration and Closed Primary Bills – LIV does NOT support closing the primary**
 - HB 1347 – Pat Fallon (duplicates by Rinaldi and Shaheen)
 - HB 3382 – Mike Schofield
- **Ballot Access – LIV SUPPORTS THIS BILL**
 - HB 3068 – Ron Reynolds - to be addressed by another speaker