

Protect Our Water, Our Land, Our Elections



Political independents are coming together this legislative session to ask Texas House and Texas Senate members to support:

- ▶ Enacting fair ballot access laws for independent candidates and non-primary parties allowing for electoral competition in Texas elections. What would baseball be like with only two teams? Texas voters deserve a level playing field and more choices. Legislators on both sides of the aisle are urged to become a co-sponsor of **HB 3068, the Voter Choice Act!**
- ▶ Ending one-punch straight ticket voting, joining 40 other states to encourage voters to think before they vote. We hope to see bi-partisan support on **HB 25** and **SB 2175** when they're up for a vote on the House and Senate floors.
- ▶ Petition rights suffered a wholesale attack in the last session, but were rescued by a cross-partisan coalition of citizen organizations and activists who cherish their municipal petition rights – a 1912 Texas constitutional amendment for *REAL* local control. We are cautiously optimistic that **SB 466**, **SB 488** and **HB 907** will succeed this session in preventing local government interference with citizen petitions.
- ▶ Ensuring verifiable elections – no candidate wants to face an unverifiable recount. **We especially like HB 1711.**
- ▶ Slaying “Gridzilla”, aka the California Water Model– an abject failure to protect aquifers and private property rights in favor of mining aquifers and exporting water to growth corridors. The first “Gridzilla” was defeated in 2015. She’s back in 2017 --- on steroids. Her cronies have introduced a bevy of bills promising death by a thousand cuts to local groundwater management, aquifer sustainability and landowner rights to protect their groundwater rather than sell it or have it sucked out from under them. It’s also time to rein in irresponsible municipal water utilities that seek to broker water outside their service areas and offload new infrastructure costs onto their own ratepayers. *Support* **HB 3166**, **HB 3417** and **HB 3996**, *tentatively support* **HB3028**, and *oppose* **SB1392**, **HB 31**, **HB 2378** and **HB 4235**. See our detailed list and tell Gridzilla to go soak her head.
- ▶ Passing the most comprehensive eminent domain reform in years, starting with the passage of **Texans for Property Rights Coalition** reform bills. See Calvin Tillman’s enclosed study explaining why passing **SB 740** for reimbursement of property owner’s expenses when sued on a low-ball offer is so easy to support.



**TEXANS FOR ELECTORAL COMPETITION &
LEAGUE OF *independent* VOTERS OF TEXAS**

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