

Legislative Priority Progress Report: Election Integrity

Updated 5-31-21 (last day of 87th Texas Legislative Session)

House Bills

Sixteen House bills met Republican Party of Texas election integrity goals (marked with an “*“): HB 6, HB 329, HB 335, HB 574, HB 1368, HB 1708, HB 2321, HB 2339, HB 2478, HB 2546, HB 3276, HB 3281, HB 3297, HB 4044, HB 4331, and HB 4369. Most received committee hearings. Dozens of other key election reforms were filed; most are dead.

[House Bill 574](#)* by State Rep. [Greg Bonnen](#) (R–Friendswood) adds two new election fraud offenses, intentionally counting invalid votes and failing to count valid votes, and makes them a second-degree felony.

→**Status: Sent to the Governor** May 20.

[House Bill 2283](#) by State Rep. [Phil King](#) (R–Weatherford) aims to [keep outside money from influencing how Texas elections are run](#). The bill bans county election offices from taking private third-party contributions, like the huge amounts of cash Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg [funneled to select local election administrators](#) in 2020.

HB 2283 [passed the House with bipartisan support](#) April 29. A committee substitute (as amended) **passed the Senate** May 25. The House signed off on Senate changes May 30; the House signed May 31.

→**Status: Sent to the Governor** May 31.

The following RPT-priority election integrity bills DIED due to inaction in the final days of the session:

[House Bill 6](#)* by State Rep. [Briscoe Cain](#) (R–Deer Park) and [71 additional authors](#) is a comprehensive omnibus bill with [multiple election reform provisions](#). The bill targets paid vote harvesting, stops officials from distributing unsolicited mail-ballot applications, and adds protections for poll watchers. HB 6 also deters coerced voter assistance, prevents officials from altering or suspending election rules, and expedites court actions on election-related cases.

HB 6 was approved by the House Elections Committee on a party-line vote April 8. On April 29, the committee [replaced the language of Senate Bill 7 \(passed by the Senate April 1\) with the contents of HB 6](#), making the two bills identical. The House considered the substitute SB 7 in lieu of HB 6, which was tabled.

SB 7 (HB 6 language) [passed the House](#) May 7 with [18 amendments](#) and was **returned to the Senate** May 14. The Senate refused to concur with the House-passed version of SB 7 and requested a [conference committee to reconcile differences](#) and hammer out a version that both chambers must approve by May 30.

→**Status: DEAD:** The Senate [passed the conference committee report](#) May 30. With just hours left in the session, SB 7 [died in the House](#) when Democrats walked out, breaking quorum and preventing a vote on the bill.

[House Bill 2339](#)* by State Rep. [Stephanie Klick](#) (R–Fort Worth) directs the attorney general to regularly compare voter rolls to lists of self-identified noncitizens and nonresidents excused from jury duty. The House considered companion [Senate Bill 155](#) in lieu of HB 2339.

→**Status: DEAD:** SB 155 passed the Senate April 6. It [passed the House](#) (as amended) May 18. The Senate adopted the conference committee report May 30 but the House didn't vote on it.

[House Bill 3276](#)* by State Rep. [Tan Parker](#) (R–Flower Mound) would secure voted ballots being tabulated at central counting stations with live-streamed video surveillance systems. House floor amendments removed a requirement for licensed peace officers, added a funding mechanism, and made surveillance optional if funding is not available.

→**Status: DEAD:** HB 3276 (as amended) passed the House May 11 and was placed on the Senate local & uncontested calendar May 26 but never received a vote.

The following RPT-priority election integrity bills DIED because they were not placed on the House calendar in time to receive consideration on second reading by midnight May 13:

[House Bill 2321](#)* by Jetton directs ballot boards to compare mail-ballot signatures with others on file to verify they are valid.

→**Status: DEAD:** HB 2321 was sent to House Calendars Committee April 22 and was placed on the House General State Calendar for May 12.

[House Bill 2546](#)* by Jetton, Cain, and [10 coauthors directs](#) the secretary of state to enforce local registrars' voter roll maintenance duties and adds a criminal penalty for local officials who repeatedly fail to comply.

→**Status: DEAD:** HB 2546 was sent to House Calendars Committee April 22 and was placed on the House General State Calendar for May 12.

The following RPT-priority election integrity bills DIED because they were not moved out of the House Calendars Committee for consideration by the full House:

[House Bill 1708](#)* by State Rep. [James White](#) (R–Hillister) requires voting systems to include auditable paper trails by September 2030. A committee substitute joint-authored by [Michelle Beckley](#) (D–Carrollton) also allows counties using “hybrid” electronic voting systems with hand-marked paper ballots to use countywide vote centers. Beckley sought this provision on behalf of Denton County, which is partially within her district and uses this type of system so cannot currently use countywide voting. *Similar paper-trail provisions are included in [SB 598](#), reported out of House Elections Committee May 4. A similar countywide voting provision, contained in [HB 661](#) by Beckley/Cain, was amended onto HB6/SB7.*

→**Status: DEAD:** HB 1708 was sent to House Calendars Committee April 23.

[House Bill 2478](#)* by State Rep. [Cody Harris](#) (R–Palestine) requires voters to include a voter ID number on their vote-by-mail applications and ballots, in line with ID required to vote in person. *Similar [SB 1509](#) passed the Senate April 28. A committee substitute was reported out of House Elections May 7.*

→**Status: DEAD:** HB 2478 was sent to House Calendars Committee April 20.

[House Bill 3281](#)* by State Rep. [Dennis Paul](#) (R–Houston) requires mail ballots sent from within the U.S to arrive by the fourth day before Election Day, and counting to start no earlier than 3 p.m. and be completed by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

→**Status: DEAD:** HB 3281 was sent to the House Calendars Committee May 5.

[House Bill 3297](#)* by State Rep. [Steve Allison](#) (R–San Antonio) adds new election fraud offenses, including voting more than once in the same election and intentionally counting invalid votes or failing to count valid votes. A committee substitute removes a provision that increased election fraud to a second-degree felony, and instead makes it a state jail felony to commit election fraud while acting as an election official or commit perjury on an election document.

→**Status: DEAD:** HB 3297 was sent to House Calendars Committee April 29.

[House Bill 4044](#)* by Cain authorizes the secretary of state’s office to withhold state funding from county election officials who fail to follow rules for canceling registrations of ineligible voters. *Similar RPT-priority bill [SB 1113](#) passed the Senate April 12 and was reported out of House Elections Committee April 27.*

→**Status: DEAD:** HB 4044 was sent to House Calendars Committee April 29.

[House Bill 4331](#)* by Jetton makes paid vote harvesting a third-degree felony and adds a civil right of action for candidates harmed by competitors’ vote-harvesting schemes. *A similar vote-harvesting provision is included in [HB 6/SB 7](#).*

→**Status: DEAD:** HB 4331 was sent to House Calendars Committee April 23.

[House Bill 4369](#)* by State Rep. [Candy Noble](#) (R–Lucas) directs mail-ballot review boards to verify ballot application signatures with others on file from the past six years, using software to display all electronically available signatures together.

→**Status: DEAD:** HB 4369 was sent to House Calendars Committee April 30.

Details about bills are available at [Texas Legislature Online](#).