
SUBJECT: Making election precinct boundary changes occur in odd-numbered years

COMMITTEE: Elections — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Cain, J. González, Beckley, Bucy, Clardy, Fierro, Jetton, Schofield, Swanson

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Andrew Eller; Eric Opiela; Derek Ryan; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Michelle Davis, Convention of States; Heather Hawthorne, County and District Clerks Association of Texas; Wesley Whisenhunt, Grassroots Gold; Alan Vera, Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee; Joey Bennett, Secure Democracy; Glen Maxey, Texas Democratic Party; Donald Garner, Texas Faith and Freedom Coalition; Shelia Franklin and Fran Rhodes, True Texas Project; and 21 individuals)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Harrison Hiner, Communications Workers of America; Joanna Cattnach, Dallas County Democratic Party)

On — Lori Gallagher; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Christina Adkins, Texas Secretary of State)

BACKGROUND: Election Code sec. 42.031(a) requires each commissioners court to determine whether county election precincts comply with certain territory and population requirements during March or April of each odd-numbered year.

Sec. 42.033(a) establishes that a change in a county precinct election boundary takes effect on the first day of the first even-numbered voting year following the voting year in which the change is ordered.

DIGEST: HB 2057 would require commissioners courts to make determinations on county election precinct compliance in March or April of even-numbered years. The bill also would specify that a change in a county precinct

election boundary would take effect on the first day of the first odd-numbered year following the year in which the change was ordered.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 2057 would resolve confusion for candidates and voters in primary elections by requiring that changes in election precinct boundaries go into effect the first day of odd-numbered years, rather than the first day of even-numbered voting years.

Currently, candidates for office may begin campaigning for a primary election before election precinct boundaries are redrawn. This can cause confusion for candidates if there is a change in precinct boundaries in the district in which they are running. Voters also may be unable to vote at their usual precinct if after redrawing they are located in a different precinct. The bill would remove this confusion by requiring commissioners courts to evaluate election precinct boundaries in even-numbered years and have the new boundaries go into effect in odd-numbered years, preventing the possibility of precinct boundaries changing during a primary campaign.

**CRITICS
SAY:**

No concerns identified.