

- SUBJECT:** Preparing contact information for a jury wheel
- COMMITTEE:** Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Smithee, Farrar, Gutierrez, Hernandez, Murr, Neave
3 nays — Laubenberg, Rinaldi, Schofield
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jennifer Lindenzweig, Hunt County Clerk; Celeste Bichsel and Caroline Woodburn, Texas County and District Clerks' Association; Heather Hawthorne; Patti Henry; Laura Hinojosa; Angelia Orr)

Against — None

On — Ashley Fischer, Texas Secretary of State: (*Registered, but did not testify:* Keith Ingram, Texas Secretary of State, Elections Division)
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code, 62.001 requires the voter registrar of each county and the Department of Public Safety to furnish certain information, including voters' registration information and their mailing addresses, to the secretary of state for the purpose of reconstituting the jury wheel. The secretary of state combines the lists, eliminates duplicate names, and sends the combined list to each county.

The list from a voter registrar provided to the secretary of state may exclude the names of persons on the suspense list, which contains the voters who failed to confirm their residence with the registrar, whose undelivered renewal certificate was returned to the registrar, or who appear on the list of nonresidents of the county provided to the registrar.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 1103 would require the secretary of state, when combining lists with information on potential jurors furnished by voter registrars and the Department of Public Safety, to include only the address submitted by the voter registrar if the lists provided different addresses for a person.

The bill also would require voter registrars to exclude in their lists to the secretary of state the names of those on the suspense list.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSHB 1103 would make voter registration mailing addresses the default address when the secretary of state prepares the jury wheel. Texas has a historic problem with low response rates to jury summons, and during the interim, the House Committee on Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence identified incorrect addresses on the jury pool list as a significant contributor to low participation. Currently, the secretary of state has discretion over what address to use if there is a conflict between a person's driver's license and voter registration information. The committee in its interim report recommended requiring that voter registration mailing addresses be used as the default address for the jury wheel to increase jury participation rates.

CSHB 1103 would help increase participation because voter registration addresses are considered more likely to be current than the address on a driver's license. While there are requirements to update driver's license addresses after a move, compliance is low.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

A voter registration address is the wrong address to use to contact a jury pool participant. Driver's license addresses must be changed each time a person moves or the driver risks being fined. People have a greater incentive to keep their driver's license addresses current than their voter registration addresses.