



Texas Secretary of State
ELECTIONS DIVISION



Legislative Updates: Voter Registration

43rd Annual
Election Law Seminar
for County Election Officials
August 11-13, 2025



Agenda

Review the bills passed
by subject matter

Practical considerations
and the primary election

A table-share exercise to
discuss best practices
regarding voter
registration



Bills By Subject Matter

Jury Management

- House Bill 2637
- House Bill 4749

Office of the Secretary of State

- Senate Bill 510
- Senate Bill 1470

Voter Confidentiality & Alt. Address

- Senate Bill 523
- Senate Bill 1540
- Senate Bill 1569

Addresses and List Maintenance

- Senate Bill 1862

Updates to Existing Registrations for In-County Moves

- Senate Bill 2217



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Jury Management



Jury Management

HB 2637—Individuals who are 75 and older may claim a permanent exemption from grand-jury service by submitting a signed statement filed with the district clerk

- Separates misdemeanor theft convictions and felony convictions as two separate reasons a person may be disqualified from jury service
- Requires the district clerk to send information on felony convictions to the voter registrar



What Does This Mean for County Election Officials?

Before **HB 2637**, when a district clerk uploaded jury disqualifications, there was no way to indicate if the person was ineligible for jury service because of a felony or a misdemeanor theft

People convicted of felonies (who have not discharged their sentence) are ineligible to vote, while people convicted of misdemeanor theft but not felonies are eligible to vote

Separating misdemeanor theft from felony lets the VR know whether someone disqualified from jury service has been convicted of a felony and therefore should be sent a Notice of Examination.



Jury Management

HB 4749—Updates qualifications for grand jury and petit jurors in counties with a population of less than 1,000 by allowing individuals who are residents of contiguous counties and qualified to vote in those counties to serve as jurors, even if the individual does not reside in the summoning county

- Purpose of bill is to allow smaller counties that have overlapping judicial districts to include people from neighboring counties that are within that judicial district for their jury wheels
 - This will provide a larger jury pool for these small counties



What Does This Mean for County Election Officials?

Small counties may need to share voter registration information with neighboring counties in order to manage jury wheels

May result in more need for coordination with neighboring counties



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SB 510—Expands SOS authorization to withhold funds if a voter registrar fails to perform voter registration duties on time. Prior to **SB 510**, SOS could withhold Chapter 19 or Section 31.009 funds when a registrar failed to timely approve, change, or cancel a registration.

Bill provides SOS additional authorization to withhold funds for:

- Not timely scheduling a hearing for a challenge to cancelation (Sec. 16.064);
- Not timely determining a challenge to cancelation (Sec. 16.066);
- Not timely scheduling a hearing for a challenge not based on residence brought by a registered voter (Sec. 16.093); and
- Not timely determining a challenge not based on residence brought by a registered voter (Sec. 16.095)



What Does This Mean for County Election Officials?

VRs still receive a written notice of the alleged violation and a reasonable opportunity to correct the alleged violation before funds are withheld

If the VR corrects the problem within 30 days of funds being withheld, the SOS must release the funds

This mechanism is already in place; **SB 510** only expands the actions it covers



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SB 1470—Requires DPS to provide SOS with information about individuals with a Texas driver's license or ID card who apply for a DL/ID card in another state

- Requires SOS to use data on registered voters who apply for a DL/ID card in another state to maintain the statewide voter registration list



What Does This Mean for County Election Officials?

- May increase rate of information sharing, thereby improving list maintenance



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Alternate Address Program and Confidentiality



Alternate Address Program

SB 523—Expands coverage under Alternate Address Program (AAP) through the Department of Public Safety (DPS) for parole officers and probation officers

- AAP allows use of an alternate address on a voter's driver's license or ID card in lieu of their actual residential address
- Voters are authorized to designate their work address on their voter-registration certificate if they choose
- Applicant's voter registration information will be subject to public disclosure, but because the residence address on the voter registration application is the applicant's workplace, the actual residence address cannot be disclosed



What Does This Mean for County Election Officials?

- Counties will want to ensure that election officers and county staff are aware of the new categories of voters covered under the bill in order to best assist voters and respond to inquiries



Confidentiality

SB 1540 (effective September 1, 2025)—Adds current or former election officials (as defined by Section 1.005), as well as employees, volunteers, or designees of election officials and employees of the Secretary of State to the list of individuals eligible for confidentiality



What Does This Mean for County Election Officials?

UPDATED FORM: Current Request For Confidentiality for Candidates Under Texas Government Code (Form 2-67) will be updated to include newly covered people

Old versions of the form will still be valid if the covered person is listed

The process is the same for new professions as for those already covered

Newly covered people may want to apply for confidentiality:

- Current or former election officials
- Employees, volunteers or designees of election officials
- Employees of the Secretary of State who work in elections



Confidentiality

SB 1569—Adds new professions to the list of individuals eligible for confidentiality.

- Specifically, it includes:
 - Members of the governing body of an institution of higher learning or higher education;
 - Chancellor or other chief executive officer of a university system; and
 - President or other chief executive officer of an institution of higher learning or higher education.
- The same individuals may restrict information in appraisal records related to the individual's home address and make that information available for only official use of governmental entities.



What Does This Mean for County Election Officials?

UPDATED FORM: Current Request For Confidentiality for Candidates Under Texas Government Code (Form 2-67) will be updated to include newly covered people

Old versions of the form will still be valid if the covered person is listed

The process is the same for new professions as for those already covered



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Voter Registration Application and List Maintenance



Voter Registration Applications

SB 1862—Requires a voter registration application to include the address, including the city and county, where the applicant formerly resided.

- Before **SB 1862**, the city and county where the voter formerly resided was required, but not the address.
- If voter registration application reflects that the voter's previous residence address was outside of the State of Texas, the voter registrar must document the voter's full legal name, date of birth, current address of residence, and previous address of residence. Voter registrar must compile this information and, at least once a month, submit it to the SOS.
- SOS must notify the voter registrars with jurisdiction over the previous residence on a monthly basis that the voter may be removed from that jurisdiction's voter registration list.



What Does This Mean for County Election Officials?

UPDATED FORMS: Every voter-registration form that has a former residence address section, specifically:

- Voter registration application
- VDR application
- Provisional Ballot Affidavit
- Address Confirmation Notice
- Statement of Residence
- Limited Ballot Application



What Does This Mean for County Election Officials?

The voter registrar must compile information on registrants who previously lived outside Texas and, at least once a month, submit it to the Secretary of State

SOS must notify voter registrars with jurisdiction over the previous residence of a voter that the voter may be removed from that jurisdiction's voter registration list on a monthly basis



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Updates to Existing Registrations for In-County Moves

Senate Bill 2217



Updates to Voter Registration

SB 2217—An update to a voter's registration takes effect immediately upon the voter registrar's receipt of a notice of the voter's change of address if the voter changes residence within the same county as the voter's current registration address

- **Replaces failsafe voting** by allowing voters to update their registration and vote in the precinct **of their new residence**
- Bill is effective for elections ordered on or after September 1, 2025
- Bill will not be in effect for the November 2025 Constitutional Amendment Election
- First election it will be in effect for will be the December 13, 2025 Runoff election



Effect of SB 2217 On Voter Registration

- Effectively, **SB 2217** eliminates the 30-day period between receipt of a registration document and the effective date of registration, **but only for documents that indicate that the voter has changed residences within the county**



Effect of SB 2217 On Voter Registration

- As noted, a voter's registration takes effect immediately upon the registrar's receipt of a notice of the voter's change of address submitted under Sections 15.021, 63.0011, 15.053, or Chapter 20 if the voter changes residence within the same county as the voter's current registration address

**Covered by
SB 2217**

- Voter registration forms, submitted by any valid means
- Voter certificates
- The SOS voter name and address change website
- Statement of Residence
- Confirmation of address response form
- Chapter 20 Deputy Voter Registration Form



Implementation of SB 2217: First Thoughts

- The SOS is working on implementation of **SB 2217** and will produce an advisory with detailed recommendations covering all aspects of the change
- Solutions will be county specific as each county has different needs, processes, and resources
- Voter registrars will need to keep processing applications and other submitted documents through Election Day
 - This applies to applications from high school deputy registrars and VDRs



SB 2217: What Can Counties Do Now?

- Talk to your e-pollbook vendor about the upcoming change and how it affects your county
- If you plan to use a phone-based process, think about the resources you will need to make that work smoothly
- Remember that **SB 2217 does not apply** to the November 4, 2025 election
- Communicate with local entities who run their own elections to make sure that they understand the changes and that there may be changes to voter registration lists after the voter registration deadlines and throughout the voting period



SB 2217: Points of Emphasis

- Counties must continue processing voter-registration documents throughout the year, including the 30 days before the election and during the election year
- Begin thinking about how to implement polling-place updates for in-county moves in your county
- We will have more guidance
- Call or email our office if you have questions



SB 2217: Scenario

- Voter Y lives in Texas County and updated their residence address on their voter registration to another residence address within the same county two days before early voting begins in the December runoff election.
- Does Voter Y's updated registration take effect immediately or thirty days after the update is submitted to the voter registrar?
- Is Voter Y eligible to receive a ballot style in their new precinct based on the updated registration?



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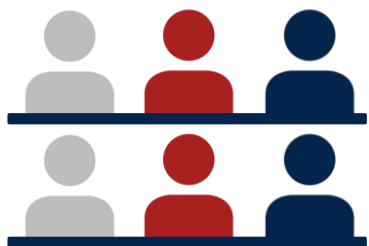
Voter Registration and Preparing for the Primary Election



Partner Share

Prompt:

- Discuss some best practices your county has implemented regarding the review of voter registration applications and their record keeping
 - Responses could range from must-do's to helpful tips



Work together with the person directly behind you

Ensure that both people have a turn to share their thoughts, ideas, or perspective

You will have
5 minutes
to discuss with
your partner



National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA)

Immediately review the application for completeness and determine if there are any issues

Counties will have a 90-day moratorium on list maintenance activities for the March 2026 primary election and the May 2026 primary runoff election

Counties must continue to process voter registration applications during this 90-day period and should not stop processing voter registration applications

Keep all correspondence, records of actions taken, and other relevant paperwork with the application



National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA)

Under the NVRA, the only permissible voter removal programs that counties may undertake during the 90-day moratorium until after the primary, and any subsequent primary runoff are:

- Voters who voluntarily cancel their voter registration;
- Voters who are deceased;
- Voters who are finally convicted of a felony; or
- Voters adjudicated mentally incapacitated without the right to vote.



Voter Registrar's Office Hours

Remember that the primary elections include weekend days and hours for early voting by personal appearance, as well as extended weekday hours

- This means the voter registrar's office must remain open to provide voter registration information during the extended hours or weekend hours that the main early voting polling place is open for voting
- As the voter registrar, make sure your office is adequately staffed and trained



Effective Dates

Bill	Topic	Effective	2025 Constitutional
HB 2637	Jury Management	September 1, 2025	✓
HB 4749	Jury Management	September 1, 2025	✓
SB 510	Authorization to Withhold Funds	September 1, 2025	✓
SB 1470	Department of Public Safety	September 1, 2025	✓
SB 523	Alternate Address Program	September 1, 2025	✓



Effective Dates

Bill	Topic	Effective	2025 Constitutional
SB 1540	Confidentiality	September 1, 2025	✓
SB 1569	Confidentiality	September 1, 2025	✓
SB 1862	Voter Registration Application	September 1, 2025	✓
SB 2217	Updates to In-County Residence Address for Voter Registration	Elections ordered on or after September 1, 2025	-



Available Support



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