

SPECIAL EDITION

TALLY

THE PREMIER NEWS
MAGAZINE FOR THE TACEO

RECOUNT **2025 Legislative** **Summary**

**TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY
ELECTION OFFICIALS**

TALLY

2025, SPECIAL EDITION



01 - INTRODUCTION

- Executive Board Welcome
- Legislative Chair Message

02 - TEXAS GOVERNMENT

- Legislative Process

03 - ADMINISTRATIVE BILLS

- Bills that have immediate administrative impact

04- PENALTY

- Bills that impact penalties regarding enforcement

05- STATE & COUNTY SPECIFIC

- Bills that impact state or local policies

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear TACEO Members,

As we conclude this legislative session, we want to extend our gratitude for your active participation and invaluable contributions. Together, we have navigated complex discussions and made significant strides in advocating for policies that align with our shared goals and vision.

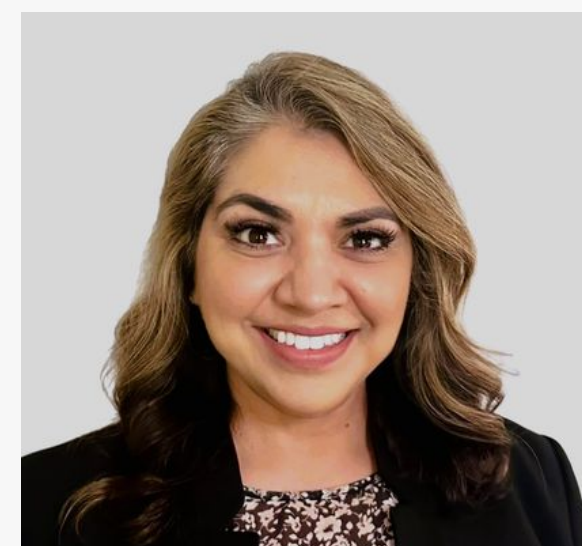
While we celebrate our accomplishments, there remains important work ahead. Implementation is crucial, and your continued collaboration will be essential as we put these legislative solutions into action. We am confident that by drawing on the collective expertise and commitment of our members, we can effectively meet the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Please look forward to upcoming meetings and workshops where we will strategize on executing the new policies and ensure their successful adoption. Your insights and efforts are key to making a tangible impact in our community and beyond.

Thank you once again for your dedication. We are excited about the path forward and are eager to continue working alongside each of you.

Warm Regards,

Executive Board



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR



Members,

It's been a pleasure to serve as your legislative chair for the 89th Legislative Session. We started this session in January 2025 full force with our focus on preserving countywide polling and electronic poll books. We defined 9 legislative priorities as an association, 7 of which passed successfully.

Additionally, we worked behind the scenes to make sure that some other bills related to audits and conservatorships failed, and some great fixes to the election code were strategically placed in other bills. We escaped this session with one bill that went from a 243-page omnibus bill to a 13-page bill that the Republican Party of Texas adopted as their priority for election integrity. Ironically, this bill was supported by the state democrats also. Despite the efforts of our association and some of partner associations, the bill passed with negotiated language to push the first election out to the first election practicable, or 2027. We were in constant communication with Senator Hall's office, Representative Isaac and Representative Shaheen on this language and steps to delay the execution of this bill. In the end, although we didn't support the final language – we are grateful to be at the table for negotiations.

This session was a very successful in terms of passing priority bills that improve election security and increase voter confidence. We as an association made so many strides in positioning ourselves as the subject matter experts. Election Administrators are respected and seen as equals to our elected partners. Thank you to all of you that made calls and sent emails. You played a role in ensuring that we were heard. It takes a team!!

The work the TACEO Board has done to level the playing field and build teams to collect data, communicate and create an environment of inclusiveness while exhibiting the utmost professionalism is moving the bar for other organizations that are aligning themselves with us in our legislative efforts. These groups include, CDCAT, Texas Urban Counties, Texas Judges and Commissioners Association, and the Tax Assessor- Collectors Association of Texas.

Our legislative team including Jay, Kevin, Kirsten, TACEO board members, and the legislative committee and I are working closely with all stakeholders already to define priorities moving forward into the interim. For those of you that haven't met Kevin, he is such a great resource for us. His bill drafting experience and professional knowledge really helped up get some priorities over the finish line. Legislators appreciate it when you can provide them with language. It also helps us cut through the process more expeditiously.

We know that changes take time to get accustomed to and that this change can seem overwhelming. Everyone that was spoken to throughout this process from the Secretary of State herself to her staff, and legislators that participated in passing this bill has assured me that we will not implement this until everyone is comfortable with the plan. Additionally, if we find some things that conflict with other areas of the election code, we can highlight that during the interim to offer remedies and solutions. Please contact me if you have questions or would like to talk about future legislative priorities.

See you all in August.

Bests,
Jennifer Doinoff
Legislative Chair
TACEO

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE PROCESS - THE BASICS

Bicameral Structure: The Texas Legislature consists of two chambers – the House of Representatives and the Senate.

-**Legislation Drafting:** A bill is proposed when a legislator drafts it, often with the help of legal advisors.

-**Introduction:** Bills can be introduced in either the House or the Senate, except for revenue bills which must be introduced in the House.

-**Committee Referral:** Once introduced, the bill is referred to a relevant committee where it is studied, and hearings are often held.

-**Committee Action:** The committee can amend the bill, approve it as is, or decide not to act, effectively "killing" the bill.

-**Debate and Voting in the Chamber:** If the committee approves, the bill advances to the floor of its respective chamber for debate and voting. A simple majority is usually required for passage.

-**Opposite Chamber:** If passed, the bill moves to the other chamber, where it undergoes similar procedures – committee review, debate, and voting.

-**Conference Committee (if necessary):** If the second chamber makes amendments, a conference committee may be formed to reconcile differences between the two versions.

-**Final Approval:** Once both chambers reach an agreement on the final version, each must vote again to approve it.

-**Governor's Action:** The bill is then sent to the Governor who can sign it into law, allow it to become law without a signature, or veto it.

-**Veto Override:** If the Governor vetoes the bill, the Legislature can override the veto with a two-thirds majority in both chambers.

-**Implementation:** Once approved, the bill is enacted as law and implemented according to its provisions.

ADMINISTRATIVE

This list of bills included in this section were deemed as having a direct administrative impact to your county. Some of the bills will require SOS advisory's to identify the practical implementation on a County level. This document is intended to give a general summary of the impact legislation may have on your day to day office / election administration.

Click on each of the Bill Numbers to get to the myTLO page with the full details of the legislation. On subsequent pages, click the bill number to get the full pdf version of the enrolled bill.

Bill	Author
SB 506	Bettencourt, Huffman, Middleton, Parker, Paxton
SB 827	Parker
SB 901	Kolkhorst
SB 985	Bettencourt
SB 1025	Bettencourt
SB 1494	Johnson, West
SB 1540	Bettencourt
SB 2166	Parker
SB 2216	Hughes
SB 2217	Hughes
SB 2753	Hall
SB 2964	Hughes
HB 493	Shaheen
HB 640	Bumgarner
HB 766	Cortez
HB 3546	Hughes
HB 3575	Noble
HB 3909	Hickland

SB 506

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule :** "The changes in law made by this Act apply only to a petition submitted on or after January 1, 2026."
- **Summary:** Relating to requirements for certain ballot propositions and to related procedures and provisions.

Code Impacted /Amended• :

- Section 52.072, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g),
- Chapter 233, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 233.0115,
- Chapter 273, Election Code, is amended by adding Subchapter F,
- Chapter 277, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 277.005

SB 827

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule :** Immediate
- **Summary:** Relating to the audit of an election using an electronic voting system.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 127.201, Election Code, is amended,
- Section 127.302, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (c) and adding Subsection (a-1)

SB 901

- **Effect Date:** Immediate
- **Application Rule** Immediate

- **Summary:** Relating to the declaration of a candidate's ineligibility on the basis of filing an application for a place on the general primary election ballot or for nomination by convention with more than one political party.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Chapter 162, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 162.0151,
- Section 172.028(c), Election Code, is amended,
- Section 181.068(c), Election Code, is amended,
- Section 182.007(c), Election Code, is amended

SB 985

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025

- **Application Rule:** Immediate

- **Summary:** This bill, as enacted on May 24, 2025, makes modifications to a statute that permits the consolidation of election precincts under certain circumstances. Specifically, the bill:

Permits the consolidation of county election precincts with fewer than 3,000 registered voters if the small precinct is the result of changed boundaries after redistricting and the consolidation is necessary to avoid unreasonable expenditure.

Limits a precinct that is consolidated in this way to the maximum size prescribed by current law, which is 5,000 registered voters.

Modifies an existing statute that provides for the combination of precincts. Under the previous law, precincts could be combined in a county with a population of 1.2 million or less that does not participate in the countywide polling place program if in a general or special election, the commissioners court can not find a suitable location in a precinct and the combined location would serve the needs of both. Under the bill, this type of consolidation could occur in a primary election for which the use of county election precincts is required as well

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 42.0051, Election Code, is amended

SB 1025

- **Effect Date:** Immediate
- **Application Rule :** Immediate
- **Summary:** Relating to requirements for certain ballot propositions and to related procedures and provisions.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 52.072, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (g),
- Chapter 233, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 233.0115,
- Chapter 273, Election Code, is amended by adding Subchapter F,
- Chapter 277, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 277.005

SB 1494

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule :** Immediate
- **Summary:** The governing body of a political subdivision, other than a county or municipal utility district, that holds its general election for officers on a date other than the November uniform election date may, not later than December 31, 2025, change the date on which it holds its general election for officers to the November uniform election date in odd-numbered years.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 41.0052(a), Election Code, is amended

SB 1540

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** The changes in law made by this Act apply only to a request for information that is received by a governmental body or an officer on or after the effective date of this Act. A request for information that was received before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the request was received, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.
- **Summary:** This bill, adds several categories of persons with duties related to elections to the list of persons whose personal information is eligible for exemption from public disclosure. The persons added by the bill are: a current or former election official (the definition of which the bill would also amend to include a member of a state executive committee of a political party that nominates by primary election) an employee, volunteer, or designee of an election official an employee of the secretary of state's office who performs duties relating to elections.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 1.005(4-a), Election Code, is amended
- Section 552.1175(a), Government Code, is amended

SB 2166

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule :**Immediate
- **Summary:** Relating to testing of voting tabulation equipment.
- **Code Impacted /Amended• :**
 - Sections 127.091, 127.092, and 127.093, Election Code, are amended
 - Section 127.094(b), Election Code, is amended
 - Section 127.096(a), Election Code, is amended
 - Section 127.099, Election Code, is amended
 - Section 129.023, Election Code, is amended
 - Section 129.024, Election Code, is amended
 - Section 127.096(a-1), Election Code, is repealed.

SB 2216

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** The changes in law made by this Act apply only to an election ordered on or after the effective date of this Act.
- **Summary:** Relating to security of election system equipment.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 123.034, Election Code, is amended
- Section 129.051, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsections (a-1), (h), and (i)

Effect Date: This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

Application Rule: This Act applies only to an election ordered on or after the effective date of this Act

Summary: Relating to certain election practices and procedures. Specific changes:

Section 1 (e) A voter's registration takes effect immediately upon the registrar's receipt of a notice of the voter's change of address submitted under Section 15.021, Section 63.0011, Section 15.053, or Chapter 20 if the voter changes residence within the same county as the voter's current registration address.

Section 3 (b) If the voter's residence address is not current because the voter has changed residence within the county, the voter may vote, if otherwise eligible, in the election precinct in which the voter resides (removing "registered") if the voter resides in the county in which the voter is registered.

Section 4. - Relating to provisional ballots cast during the early voting period

Section 5 - Relating to Post Election Reconciliation

Section 6. - Relating to a "Central Accumulator"

Section 7. - Relating to Polling Place Reports for Electronic Voting Systems

Section 8. - Relating to Required Report for Optical Scanners

Code Impacted /Amended:

Section 15.025, Election Code, is amended,

Section 31.014, Election Code, is amended,

Sections 63.0011(b) and (c), Election Code, are amended

Section 65.057, Election Code, is amended

Subchapter A, Chapter 66, Election Code, is amended by adding Sections 66.005 and 66.006

Section 121.003, Election Code, is amended

Subchapter C, Chapter 125, Election Code, is amended,

Subchapter E, Chapter 127, Election Code, is amended by adding Sections 127.1302 and 127.133

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** The changes in law made by this Act apply only to an election ordered on or after the date the secretary of state publishes the report required by Section 32 of this Act.
- **Summary:** Change the timing of early voting. Early voting for most elections would have begun on the 12th day before the election and continue through the day before the election, including weekends and holidays. Voting on the first weekend of the early voting period would be conducted for the same amount of time as voting during the week - a minimum of 9 hours per day, no earlier than 6 a.m. or later than 10 p.m. Voting on the last four days of the early voting period would be required to be conducted for at least 12 hours on each day, except that voting would be required to be offered for only 9 hours on the Sunday before the election.
- Require each polling place used during early voting to be used as a polling place on election day.
- Repeal a provision of law that limits the number of counties that may participate in the countywide polling place program.
- Make a conforming change to the statute specifying when a county with a population of 100,000 or more may begin counting mail ballots to ensure that this still occurs on the fourth day before election day.
- Permit the consolidation of county election precincts with fewer than 3,000 registered voters if the small precinct is the result of changed boundaries after redistricting and the consolidation is necessary to avoid unreasonable expenditure.
- Limit a precinct that is consolidated in this way to the maximum size prescribed by current law, which is 5,000 registered voters.
- Change the rules for the combination of precincts.
- Consolidate the processing for ballots voted in person during the early voting period and those voted on the day of the election.
- Change the rules for security of voted ballots to conform to the changes made by the changes in the early voting period.
- Repeal a number of statutes that would become obsolete due to the creation of a single voting period.

Code Impacted /Amended:

Section 12.004(d), Election Code, is amended,
Section 19.004(a), Election Code, is amended,
Section 42.0051, Election Code, is amended,
Subchapter A, Chapter 43, Election Code, is amended,
Section 61.002(a), Election Code, is amended,
Section 62.005, Election Code, is amended
Section 65.002(a), Election Code, is amended
Section 65.014(b), Election Code, is amended,
Sections 65.016(a) and (b), Election Code, are amended,
The heading to Section 66.0021, Election Code, is amended,
Section 66.0021(b), Election Code, is amended,
Sections 67.004(b) and (b-1), Election Code, are amended,
Section 67.017(a), Election Code, is amended,
Section 84.032(c), Election Code, is amended,
Sections 85.001(a) and (e), Election Code, are amended,
Sections 85.005(a), (b), and (c), Election Code, are amended,
Sections 85.007(a) and (b), Election Code, are amended,
Section 85.032, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsection (g),
Section 85.033, Election Code, is amended,
Section 85.071, Election Code, is amended,
Section 87.021, Election Code, is amended,
Section 87.022, Election Code, is amended,
Section 87.0241(b), Election Code, is amended,
Section 87.103, Election Code, is amended,
Section 87.104, Election Code, is amended,
Section 87.1231, Election Code, is amended,
Subchapter G, Chapter 87, Election Code, is amended,
Section 102.003(b), Election Code, is amended,
Section 127.131(a), Election Code, is amended,
Section 172.124(a), Election Code, is amended

Code Impacted /Amended:

The following provisions of the Election Code are repealed:

- (1) Chapter 103;
- (2) Section 43.007(i);
- (3) Section 85.006;
- (4) Section 85.008;
- (5) Section 85.064(d);
- (6) Section 85.068;
- (7) Section 87.023;
- (8) Section 87.024;
- (9) Section 113.004(c); and
- (10) Section 129.057.

SB 2964

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule :** The changes in law made by this Act apply only to an election held on or after the effective date of this Act. An election held before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect when the election was held, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.
- **Summary:** Relating to an opportunity to correct certain defects in an early voting ballot voted by mail.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 86.011, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsections (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), and (k) to read,
- Section 86.015(a), Election Code, is amended,

HB 493

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule :** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025
- **Summary:** This bill, as amended, would change the law concerning ineligibility to serve as a poll watcher due to criminal conviction. Under existing law, a person who has been finally convicted of any offense related to an election is ineligible. Under the bill, a person would be ineligible if the person was finally convicted of a felony offense related to an election, or of any other felony.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 33.006(b), Election Code, is amended
- ASection 33.035, Election Code, is amended

HB 640

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Summary:** Relating to the office hours of an election authority during an election period. Secretary of State clarification is needed, because as written, elements in this bill can conflict with elements of SB 2753.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 31.122(b), Election Code, is amended

HB 766

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule :** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025
- **Summary:** Relating to the ballot application requirements for the election of a precinct chair

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 172.021, Election Code, is amended

HB 3546

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Summary:** Relating to the authority of an independent school district to change the date of the general election for officers.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 11.059(e), Education Code, is amended,
- Section 41.0052, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a-1), as added by Chapter 985 (S.B. 2620), Acts of the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023, and adding Subsection (f)
- The following provisions are repealed:
 - (1) Sections 11.059(f) and (g), Education Code; and
 - (2) Section 41.0052(a-1), Election Code, as added by Chapter 1160 (S.B. 1131), Acts of the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023

HB 3575

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this.
- **Summary:** Relating to the filing of a campaign treasurer appointment and an application for a place on the ballot by a candidate for the board of directors of an appraisal district.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 252.005, Election Code, is amended,
- Section 6.032(b), Tax Code, is amended,
- Section 252.005, Election Code, as amended
- Section 6.032, Tax Code, as amended

HB 3909

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Summary:** A person may not use a wireless communication device within a room in which voting is taking place, removing the previous language that referenced the 100 feet of a voting station.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 61.014, Election Code, is amended

"PENALTY" BILLS

This list of bills refers to penalties incurred and criminality in regards to the enforcement of election code. The bills were deemed to have less of a direct impact on the administrative functions of your office, more so focus on the the punishment for not following the law while conducting elections as prescribed. As with all the bills, some of the contents will require SOS advisory's to identify the practical implementation on a County level. This document is intended to give a general summary of the impact legislation may have on your day to day office / election administration.

Click on each of the Bill Numbers to get to the myTLO page with the full details of the legislation. On subsequent pages, click the bill number to get the full pdf version of the enrolled bill.

Bill	Author
SB 510	Bettencourt, Creighton, Kolkhorst, Middleton, Parker
HB 521	Guillen
HB 677	DeAyala
HB 1661	Vasut
HB 5115	Shaheen

SB 510

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** The secretary of state shall prescribe rules for the administration of this section
- **Summary:** This bill, as amended, will permit the Secretary of State to withhold funds from a registrar who fails to perform a duty related to registration, hearing or determining a registration challenge, or sending a confirmation notice to a challenged registrant. The bill would require that before withholding funds, the secretary provide the registrar with written notice of the alleged violation and a reasonable opportunity to correct it.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 16.039, Election Code, is transferred to Subchapter A, Chapter 12, Election Code, redesignated as Section 12.007, Election Code, and amended

HB 521

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Summary:** This bill, creates several new misdemeanors in relation to the assistance of voters, among other changes. Specifically, the bill would:
 - Require curbside voters to sign a form affirming their need to vote curbside, a person who knowingly fails to complete the oath would commit a misdemeanor.
 - Change the requirements for a person who assists seven or more voters by providing transportation to the polling place. A person who intentionally failed to complete the form would commit a misdemeanor.
 - Modify the rules for voters voting curbside. If at least four election officers are present at a polling place, the assistance must be provided by two of them.
 - Permit a voter, if the vote is escorting another person who is physically unable to enter the polling place, to vote curbside.
 - Expand the existing prohibition on electioneering near a polling place to provide that electioneering is also prohibited within 20 feet of a parking space that is reserved for curbside voting.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 61.003(a), Election Code, is amended,
- Section 64.009, Election Code, is amended,
- Section 64.0322, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (c)
- Section 85.036(a), Election Code, is amended

HB 677

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Summary:** This bill, relating to the restrictions on political activities of a county elections administrator.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 31.035(a), Election Code, is amended,
- Section 31.035(a), Election Code, as amended

HB 1661

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** The changes in law made by this Act to Sections 51.010, 51.011, and 61.007, Election Code, apply only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date.
- **Summary:** This bill, would increase the punishment for multiple election offenses and create two new misdemeanor election offenses. Specifically, Create misdemeanor offenses for an authority responsible for procuring supplies for an election if the authority intentionally fails to provide a precinct with the required number of ballots or intentionally fails to promptly supplement distributed ballots upon request.
 - Make unlawful revealing by an election officer of election information before the polls close a felony instead of a misdemeanor.
 - Make obstruction of the distribution of election supplies a Class A misdemeanor instead of a Class C misdemeanor.
 - Make intentional failure to distribute election supplies a Class A misdemeanor instead of a Class C misdemeanor.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 51.005, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (a-1) and (d),
- Section 51.008, Election Code, is amended,
- Section 51.010(c), Election Code, is amended,
- Section 51.011(b), Election Code, is amended,
- Section 61.007(b), Election Code, is amended

HB 5115

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** The changes in law made by this Act apply only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurred before that date
- **Summary:** Expand the definition of election fraud to include counting votes the person knows to be invalid, altering a report to include votes the person knows to be invalid, refusing to count votes the person knows to be valid, or altering a report to exclude votes the person knows to be valid.
- Increase the standard punishment for election fraud by changing it from a misdemeanor to a felony.
- Increase the punishment if the offense is committed in a person's capacity as an election official from a state jail felony to a first degree felony.
- Increase the punishment if a person is committed of attempted election fraud from a class B misdemeanor to a third degree felony.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Sections 276.013(a) and (b), Election Code, are amended,
- The following provisions of the Election Code are repealed: (1)Section 276.013(c); and (2) Section 276.014.

STATE AND LOCAL BILLS

This list of bills refers to legislation that was past that were deemed to have an administrative impact on the state level, or were laws and policies that only impacted specific counties across the state. As with all the bills, some of the contents will require SOS advisory's to identify the practical implementation on a County level. This document is intended to give a general summary of the impact legislation may have on your day to day office / election administration.

Click on each of the Bill Numbers to get to the myTLO page with the full details of the legislation. On subsequent pages, click the bill number to get the full pdf version of the enrolled bill.

Bill	Author
SB 447	Hinojosa
SB 509	Hall
SB 688	Hughes
SB 914	Blanco
SB 1214	Perry
SB 1470	Hughes
SB 1733	Kolkhorst
SB 1862	Hughes
HB 551	Swanson
HB 621	Patterson
HB 2253	Bhojani
HB 2259	DeAyala
HB 3697	Cortez

SB 447

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

- **Summary:** Relating to authorizing certain municipalities to change the date on which their general election for officers is held

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 41.0052, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-3)

SB 509

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025

- **Summary:** Relating to requiring notice to the attorney general in an action under the Election Code seeking a temporary restraining order.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- The heading to Subchapter E, Chapter 273, Election Code, is amended,
- Subchapter E, Chapter 273, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 273.082

SB 688

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025

- **Summary:** The electors shall convene at the State Capitol at 2 p.m. on the first Tuesday after the second Wednesday in December following their election and shall perform their duties as prescribed by federal law.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 192.006(a), Election Code, is amended

SB 914

- **Effect Date:** Immediately
- **Application Rule:** Immediately
- **Summary:** Relating to authorizing certain cities to change the date on which their general election for officers is held.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 41.0052, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsections (f) and (g)

SB 1214

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** The changes in law made by this Act to Section 1016.053, Special District Local Laws Code, apply only to an election ordered on or after the effective date of this Act
- **Summary:** Relating to the operations and administration of the Concho County Hospital District.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 1016.053, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended,
- Section 1016.054, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended,
- Section 1016.057, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended,
- The heading to Section 1016.060, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended,
- Section 1016.060(c), Special District Local Laws Code, is amended,
- Section 1016.110, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended,
- Section 1016.160(a), Special District Local Laws Code, is amended

The following provisions of the Special District Local Laws Code are repealed:

- (1) Section 1016.055; and
- (2) Sections 1016.060(b) and (d)

SB 1470

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Summary:** This bill requires the secretary of state to use data from the Department of Public Safety to identify voters who have moved, are registered to vote in more than one state, or have lost the right to vote due to felony conviction.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Subchapter C, Chapter 18, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 18.0625 to read

SB 1733

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Summary:** Relating to the composition of the board of the Calhoun Port Authority.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 5003.051, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended,
- Section 5003.053, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended,
- Section 5003.054(b), Special District Local Laws Code, is amended,

SB 1862

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Summary:** This bill requires a voter registrar, if a voter registration application indicates that the registrant's most recent preceding address was out of state, to notify the out-of-state registrar that the person has applied in their new state. The registrar would also be required, on at least a monthly basis, to send data on this process to the secretary of state.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 13.002(c), Election Code, is amended,
- Section 13.072, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsections (e), (f), and (g)

HB 551

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** The changes in law made by this Act apply only to a report of political contributions and expenditures under Chapter 254, Election Code, that is required to be filed on or after January 1, 2026
- **Summary:** Relating to address information contained on reports of political contributions and expenditures made available on the Internet by the Texas Ethics Commission.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 254.036, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-1),
- Section 254.0401, Election Code, is amended by amending Subsection (e) and adding Subsection (e-2)

HB 621

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Summary:** Relating to the authority of a property owners association to regulate the assembly, association, and speech of property owners or residents related to governmental officials or candidates for political office.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Chapter 202, Property Code, is amended by adding Section 202.013 to read

HB 2253

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Summary:** Relating to the authority to cancel certain elections on a measure to authorize the issuance of bonds.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- The heading to Section 2.081, Election Code, is amended,
- Section 2.081, Election Code, is amended by adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2) and amending Subsections (b) and (c)

HB 2259

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Summary:** This bill requires an instruction form for a mail ballot be printed in large font, bolded as necessary, and in each language appropriate to the demographic constitution of the state.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Subchapter A, Chapter 84, Election Code, is amended by adding Section 84.0112 to read

HB 3697

- **Effect Date:** This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **Application Rule:** The changes in law made by this Act apply only to an election ordered on or after the effective date of this Act.
- **Summary:** This bill requires that an application for a mail ballot, and the balloting materials themselves, be printed in a large, easily readable font.

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 84.011(b), Election Code, is amended

SJR 37

- **Effect Date:** Immediately
- **Application Rule:** Immediately
- **Summary:** This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 4, 2025. The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen."

Code Impacted /Amended:

- Section 1(a), Article VI, Texas Constitution, is amended

TACEO

MAY 2025

Texas Association of County Election Officials
Chris McGinn
Executive Director
Phone: 737-279-4899
E-mail: executivedirector@txaceo.org