



# Texas's Proposed New Election Law

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*H.B. 3 proposes commonsense and popular changes to elections that would make it easier to vote and harder to cheat.*

## What Does HB 3 Do?

- **Brings voter ID to mail-in voting, similar to Texas's existing ID law for in-person voting. (Sec. 5.01, 5.05)**
  - Voters only need a Texas driver's license, a state ID card number, or the last four of their Social Security number to comply. ID cards are free to voters who can't afford them.
  - Texans could use an expired driver's license or ID card, and if they do not have a valid ID or Social Security number, they only need to file a "statement" with their ballot.
  - Texas law already requires an ID to cast a ballot in-person, and that law has been upheld by the courts.
- **Makes it easier to vote early, and makes access more consistent across the state (Sec. 3.08)**
  - Texas offers two weeks of early voting. H.B. 3 expands early voting hours by requiring "at least nine hours" of early voting per weekday and six hours on the last Sunday—one additional hour per day.
  - H.B. 3 provides substantial, consistent windows for early voting: 6 a.m. until 10 p.m. on weekdays and Saturday, and 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. on the last Sunday of early voting. H.B. 3 also lets voting extend even later into the evening than S.B. 7 would have done.
  - H.B. 3 gives voters who are in line when polls are scheduled to close a guaranteed right to remain in line and cast a ballot.
  - H.B. 3 ends drive-thru and 24-hour voting, two policies implemented in only a small number of jurisdictions, solely to respond to the pandemic.
- **Strengthens protections against vote trafficking (Sec. 6.05, 7.04)**
  - H.B. 3 bolsters protections against vote trafficking by making it illegal for third parties to be paid to collect ballots or assist voters in casting a ballot.
  - Voters can still get assistance with their absentee ballots if they need it, including from family members and caregivers.
- **Creates a chance to cure defective mail ballots (Sec. 5.09, 5.11)**
  - If a voter returns a ballot missing required information, he or she must be notified (or the ballot must be returned) within two business days.
  - Voters will have until six days after Election Day to cure issues with their ballot.
- **Ensures public officials follow Texas law (Sec. 7.04)**
  - H.B. 3 requires that public officials follow state election laws; specifically, they may not "create, alter, modify, waive, or suspend" a state law unless authorized to do so.
  - Public officials would be barred from distributing absentee ballots to voters who did not request them, and from sending unsolicited absentee applications or using public dollars to pay outside groups to collect absentee ballots.
- **Improves voter roll maintenance and clarifies voter registration for felons (Art. 2)**
  - Requires voter registrars to coordinate to ensure that duplicate voter registrations are removed when voters move within the state.



- To protect convicted felons from future prosecution, H.B. 3 requires courts to clearly inform them of the impact of their conviction on their ability to vote.

### Texas Compared

	TX	GA	CT	MA	NY	NJ	DE
<b>Early Voting</b>	14 days	17 days	0 days	8 days	9 days	9 days	No early voting until 2022
<b>Absentee Voting</b>	Requires excuse	No-excuse absentee voting	Requires excuse	Requires excuse	Requires excuse	No-excuse absentee voting	Requires excuse
<b>Voter ID</b>	ID required	ID required	ID required	No ID required	No ID required	No ID required	ID required

### Americans Want Safe and Fair Elections

- The vast majority of Americans support commonsense safeguards to protect the integrity of our elections. Texas’s election reforms are squarely in line with this goal.
- 64% of Americans want to strengthen election safeguards while only 21% prefer to roll back safeguards to make it “easier” to vote, according to a recent [poll](#).
  - Support for election safeguards spans across all ideologies and demographics, including 51% of African American voters and 66% of Hispanic voters.
- While some have been quick to demonize voter ID laws, the American people see voter ID requirements as easy, commonsense rules that protect their vote.
  - Over three-quarters (77%) of Americans support photo ID requirements according to a [poll](#) commissioned by Honest Elections Project Action (HEP Action).
  - A poll by [Rasmussen](#) found that 75% of likely voters say ID laws are necessary to a “fair and secure election process,” including 60% of Democrats and 77% of Independents.
- Despite the partisan rhetoric, safeguards like voter ID do not have a negative impact on minority voter turnout and actually enjoy widespread support from minority voters.
  - 64% of Black, 78% of Hispanic, and 76% of low-income voters say ID laws aren’t a burden.
  - Voter ID has strong [support](#) from young voters, seniors, African Americans, and Hispanics.
  - Studies [show](#) that voter ID requirements do not actually negatively impact minority voter turnout in elections.
- Safeguards around mail-in voting are not only important for our elections, but also enjoy widespread support from the American people.
  - [74%](#) of Americans support requiring all mailed ballots be received by Election Day.
  - [66%](#) of Americans support applying voter ID requirements to absentee ballots.
  - [62%](#) of Americans think vote trafficking should be illegal. Only 11% support the tactic.
- When you cut through the noise and look at the facts, the evidence shows that the recent efforts to strengthen election security are clearly in the mainstream.