



## Election Integrity Initiatives

Texas elections are under attack on multiple fronts and the Election Code is broken, allowing bad actors to ignore the law with impunity. That is why we must fight back by including language in the RPT Platform that clearly defines what must be fixed by the Texas Legislature in the next session.

The following Legislative Priority and Platform additions and updates were developed by Advancing Integrity and the Texas Election Coalition, representing citizens and election integrity groups across Texas. Many of the principles of our proposed priority are already represented in the Platform. We have included the language we propose to be added or updated below.

### 2024 Proposed Priority

Protect our Elections:

Enforce criminal penalties and enact civil penalties for Election Code violations which shall be enforceable by any Texas jurisdiction, including the Texas Attorney General. Require citizenship verification prior to the registration of each voter. Restrict the distribution of mail-in ballots to only those physically unable to vote in person. Establish uniform elections with all candidates at all levels elected in the same partisan process, through closed primaries in March and general elections in November. All elections would be precinct-based with a shortened, continuous voting period conducted using the election day statutes. Require statistically based randomized audits that guarantee the accuracy and function of election processes and equipment. Mandate chain of custody requirements including recorded two person authentications with signatures and seals with serial numbers to ensure authorized access control and auditable traceability of election related materials and systems from initial acquisition to final disposition.

### 2024 Proposed Platform Changes

**Uniform Elections-** Uniformity in when, where, and how the elections are run would improve accuracy, and uniformity in who runs them would increase transparency and accountability. All candidates at all levels would be elected through the same process. This works perfectly with closing the primaries and banning systems like ranked choice voting.

- Additions should be made to plank 242 stating:
  - “Adding party affiliation to locally elected officials, including city council members, school board trustees, etc.”
  - “Banning all preferential voting systems, such as ranked choice voting.”

**Accurate Voter Rolls:** Ensuring the accuracy of the voter rolls through list maintenance activity is crucial so voter registrars must be fully transparent in these activities.



- Additions should be made to plank 243 stating:
  - “Requiring voter registrars to make list maintenance activities publicly available including county-specific plans for these activities, updates for when these activities are completed, and notations in the voter rolls for each activity such as the date a voter went into suspense status and the reason for the suspense.”

**Mail-in Ballot Integrity-** The ballot by mail applications and carrier envelopes contain signatures necessary for the ballot board to ensure the ballot was sent by the voter. Several counties provide them with the ability to digitally view every signature the voter has submitted to the Election Office in order to make that decision. Every county should utilize this process. The applications themselves must be the official form to assist this process and to ensure that all of the proper parts are present. Requiring that the ballots are not separated from their carrier envelopes until the polls close would ensure that if a voter comes in person to vote, that vote could cancel out a potentially fraudulent mail-in vote instead of the other way around.

- Additions should be made to plank 242 stating:
  - “Requiring that all voters requesting a ballot by mail utilize the official application form.”
  - “Requiring that the voter registrar and early voting clerk scan and electronically retain all voter registration forms, applications for ballot by mail, and carrier envelopes.”
  - “Requiring that the early voting clerk must have software available to display all electronically available signatures together for use in signature verification.”
  - “Requiring that ballots not be separated from their carrier envelopes until the polls close on election day.”

**Audits-** Audits must be done to restore and maintain trust in our election system. The following will improve the ability to audit an election. Recent efforts have shown that recounts are incredibly difficult without precinct-based polling. There are other benefits to accuracy and transparency in eliminating countywide polling. This is why in-person voting must be conducted using Election Day statutes. Early Voting statutes do not allow for precinct-based polling.

- Additions should be made to plank 242 stating:
  - “Every voting location must maintain a paper poll list, Section 63.003d must be removed from the Election Code.”
  - “Requiring precinct based polling, eliminating countywide polling.”
  - “Requiring statistically based randomized audits that guarantee the accuracy and function of election processes and equipment.”
- Plank 241 should be revised to say: “In-Person Election Voting: In person voting shall be conducted as a continuous voting period, not longer than four days, using the Election Day statutes.”

**Signed, Sealed, Secured:** Ballots and election records must be secure at all times. Election offices have been given best practices, but not mandatory procedures, we need legislation to change that.

- An addition should be made to RPT Platform Plank 242 stating,
  - “Mandating chain of custody requirements including recorded two person authentications with signatures and seals with serial numbers to ensure authorized access control and auditable traceability of election related materials and systems from initial acquisition to final disposition.”