



## Election Integrity Legislative Priority

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 a Legislative Priority that clearly defines what must be fixed by the Texas Legislature in the next session.

The following Legislative Priority was 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 were present in the 2022 Priority. Sadly, very little election integrity legislation was passed in the 88th Session. We have included the previous language and the language we propose to be added or updated below.

### **2022 Priority**

Protect our Elections:

Restore felony 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 of each voter. Restrict the distribution of mail-in ballots to only disabled, military, and citizens that are out of state. Reduce the time allowed for early voting, and eliminate the three-day gap between early voting and election day. Establish closed primaries in Texas. As technology evolves, we encourage the passage of legislation that ensures the security of our elections.

### **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.



## Enforce Election Laws

- **Additional Penalties:** Huge portions of the Election Code do not have penalties attached for violations. Bad actors can dismiss the Code as guidelines instead of actual laws and face zero repercussions. Election officials, poll workers, vote harvesters, and anyone else involved in the election process must be subject to harsh criminal penalties if they knowingly break the law. We must also utilize civil penalties to stop organized election fraud by targeting the people at the top and draining the money from these schemes.
- **Prioritize Prosecution:** Attorney General Ken Paxton has lost the ability to prosecute election fraud. Soros-backed District Attorneys refuse to prosecute and most of our other DAs are too afraid or unwilling to hold fraudsters accountable. Laws are meaningless unless they are enforced. We must have legislation that demands adherence to the Election Code to protect our votes and our voices.

## Uniform Elections

- **March and November:** Uniformity in when, where, and how the elections are run would improve accuracy, and uniformity in who runs them would increase transparency and accountability. Increase voter turnout and decrease voter burnout by merging local elections into the primary and general elections.
- **All Partisan:** Non-partisan government is a myth. Let's stop playing games and make candidates tell the truth. Citizens deserve to know which party's principles are guiding their local officials.
- **Close the Primary:** Republican candidates should be chosen by Republicans. We must stop allowing Democrats to sabotage the Republican primaries by voting for the most left-leaning candidate.

## Protect the Process

- **Accurate Voter Rolls:** Foreign nationals cannot be allowed to vote in Texas elections. The federal government is blocking us from their databases, so we must require proof of citizenship **prior to** registration.
- **Mail-in Ballot Integrity:** The only safe, secret, and secure way to vote is in person, inside the polling location. Alternate voting methods should only be used when absolutely necessary.
- **Audits:** Proper post-election audits are essential to accurate elections and restoring trust in our elections.
- **Signed, Sealed, Secured:** Ballots, election records, and election equipment must be secure at all times. Election offices have been given best practices, but not mandatory procedures. Numerous counties don't have any chain of custody practices after the ballots reach the elections office on Election Day.