



EIP's Legislative Report for 7-28-2025 Membership Meeting

The Governor called a Special Session, called 89(1) if you are looking online at Texas Legislature Online. We were told that the issues would be limited to mostly disaster preparedness, some constitutional amendment proposals, hemp legislation, but mostly redistricting. Because redistricting directly affects elections, a few other bills have been filed that are election-related. None of them have anything to do with our mail-in ballot legislation revision priorities.

The members of our pertinent committees (Elections and State Affairs) are the same as the regular session.

As of 7-21, there were 28 “election-related” bills filed. As of 7-28-25, there are 40. We are watching these bills closely:

- SB 11 by Hughes, got a second reading today in the Senate. Its' companion bill is HB 85 by Wilson. Both are regarding the duty of the AG to prosecute. HB 98 by Hopper (and Toth and others) has similar goals. There are 4 joint resolutions (1, 6, 7, and 15) related to this same subject. Maybe we'll get lucky this time, because the last FOUR sessions didn't deal with this issue. There's also an interesting bill, HB 35 by Tepper, that looks like they're weighing the cost of doing a constitutional amendment election to just passing bills to fix this. Let's hope they pass bills, but the right bills, because we don't have much control over constitutional amendments.**
- HB 52 by Schofield, separating Federal and State elections (Good!)**
- HB 73 by Bucy, relating to electronic voter registration (Bad!)**
- HB 80 by Flores, about being specific on language when denying voter registration applications. Fairly neutral on this.**
- HB 214 by Phelan, regarding restricting political monetary contributions by out of state donors. Very interesting, considering he's VERY wealthy himself. Governor Abbott went to California and other states to collect contributions for his last race.**



- **HJR 26 by Goodwin, proposing a constitutional amendment to establish the Texas Redistricting Commission. As you know, President Trump has called for states (particularly red states) to look closely at redistricting so that Congress can get more red seats. So, Gov Abbott is doing that in this special session. The Texas Legislators started off by arguing for 3 days about why this is necessary. I think this bill is to take the heat off of the Legislators, if they redistrict and some of the voters didn't like what they did. By letting the voters of all of Texas decide in a constitutional amendment, they're in the clear.**
 - **Calls for a 14-member commission to meet after the required census year**
 - **5 majority party members, 5 minority party members, and 4 independents (Where are they going to find independents? And why is this giving the same power to a minority party?)**
 - **Restrictions on any of them being appointed or elected to certain positions for certain periods of time (so who would be deciding FOR US if they're not all duly elected officials?)**
 - **They would be appointed, which means giving more power to the one(s) who appointed them**
 - **The group is supposed to be "DIVERSE" (racially?), like the state**
 - **If this commission doesn't produce redistricting maps by the deadline, the SoS gets the Tx Supreme Court to appoint MORE "Special Masters" to get it done**
 - **Whatever they come up with, both Houses have to get a 2/3 vote to pass it.**

We're still pushing the SAVE Act, so if you get a Call to Action, please call our Representatives and Senators in Washington about getting this bill moving.

Kim Bridges

P.S. Editorial comments are my own, and may not reflect all EIP's opinions. If anyone else has a different opinion, we hear all opinions.