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## **EIP's Legislative Report for 8-11-2025 Membership Meeting**

**As the 89(1) Special Session goes on for one more week, redistricting bills are holding up the progress of any of the other election-related bills that we are tracking. (See bills we're tracking attachment.) All of the 40 bills that I called attention to last meeting are still in Stage 1 (filed only). (See bill stages attachment.) None of them have anything to do with our mail-in ballot legislation revision priorities.**

**As you know, Texas House Representatives from the Democrat Party fled to other states to avoid voting on the controversial redistricting bill. The Senate is approaching 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings on their bills, just waiting for the House to reach a quorum.**

**Ken Paxton has filed to have 13 of those who fled removed from office. One of the 13 is John Bucy, Vice Chair of the House Elections Committee. (Bucy's own HB 73 isn't progressing past stage 1, either: regarding doing electronic voter registration, which the EIP doesn't support.)**

**Back to the redistricting fight: California has an "independent" Redistricting Commission. Texas does not: our elected legislators draw the maps. But HJR 26 by Goodwin, (companion is SJR 3) is proposing a constitutional amendment to establish the Texas Redistricting Commission. Composed of 14 APPOINTED, DIVERSE, members; 5 would be majority party, 5 minority party and 4 independents. 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. More layers of bureaucrats who aren't elected. Thankfully, this is just in stage 1 (filed only).**

**In case you didn't know it, our own Rep. Hunter authored the redistricting bill, HB 4, and virtually all Republican legislators, including Rep. Villalobos, co-authored it.**

**There is one exceptional bill in stage 3, SB 11 by Hughes, which has passed the Senate and is on its way to the House State Affairs Committee. This bill calls for the Attorney General to be able to prosecute criminal election offenses. There are duplicate, similar and companion bills, but this one has made it farther than the rest. Our Rep. Villalobos co-authored HJR 1, which proposes a constitutional amendment to do this. (We won't need the constitutional amendment if SB 11 passes.)**

**We're also following HB 35 by Tepper, which calls for identifying the cost of doing a constitutional amendment prior to an election. That's a good fiscal move, but let's hope they pass bills, but only the right bills, because we don't have much control over whether constitutional amendments pass or not.**



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**Now, for some GOOD NEWS about mail-in ballots!**

You might recall that back in 2021, the League of Women Voters (et al) sued Texas to remove the requirement that voters sending in mail-in ballots must provide their TDL or Texas ID number, or their SS last 4 digits, on their mail-in ballot. (This was part of SB 1, the Election Integrity bill of 2021.)

Did you know that Texas didn't even require voter registration applications to have ID numbers until 1-1-2004, after HAVA was passed? That's one good thing that HAVA gave us...so this battle is decades old.

In 2023, Federal Judge Xavier Rodriguez (Bush appointee, San Antonio, TX), ruled that an accurate ID# wasn't "material" to whether a voter is entitled to vote.

But recently, Federal Appeals Court (5<sup>th</sup> Circuit) Judges unanimously ruled that an ID# is "plainly material" to determine if a person is qualified to vote, overruling the lower court's decision. HAVA was referenced.

**SAVE THE DATE:** October 14<sup>th</sup>, from 1-5pm, the EIP has reserved the "Members' Lounge" in the State Capitol in Austin, Texas, where we will educate legislators and their staffs on election-related issues.

On the Federal front, we're still pushing the SAVE Act, so if you get a Call to Action, please call our Representatives and Senators in Washington.

Kim Bridges

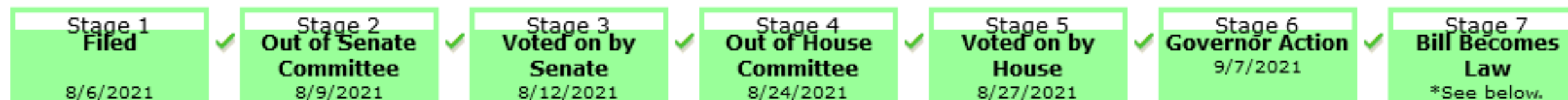
P.S. Editorial comments are my own, and may not reflect all EIP's opinions. If anyone else has a different opinion, we hear all opinions.



**Bill: SB 1**

**Legislative Session: 87(2)**

**Author: Hughes**



**Legend**

- Indicates bill passed stage
- Indicates bill has not reached stage
- Indicates bill failed to complete stage

**Helpful Links**

- [Legislative process](#)
- [Introducing a bill](#)
- [Referral to a committee](#)
- [Committee reports](#)

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Stage 1 | Bill filed by Hughes on 8/6/2021.   |
| Stage 2 | Bill reported out of Senate committee on State Affairs with vote of 6 Ayes, 3 Nays, 0 Present Not Voting, 0 Absent.                           |
| Stage 3 | Bill passed the Senate.   |
| Stage 4 | Bill reported out of House committee on Constitutional Rights & Remedies, Select with vote of 9 Ayes, 5 Nays, 0 Present Not Voting, 1 Absent. |
| Stage 5 | Bill passed the House.  |
| Stage 6 | Bill signed by the Governor.  |
| Stage 7 | Bill becomes law. Effective on .....  |

## Texas Legislature Online - Bill Search Results

Date report generated: Monday, July 28, 2025 1:10 PM

**Legislature:** 89th Legislature

**Number of bills:** 40

<b>89(1) HB 11</b>	<b>Author:</b> Shaheen
<b>Last Action:</b>	07/28/2025 H Filed
<b>Caption Version:</b>	Introduced
<b>Caption:</b>	Relating to the duty of the attorney general to prosecute criminal offenses prescribed by the election laws of this state.
<b>House Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Senate Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Companion:</b>	N/A
<b>89(1) HB 35</b>	<b>Author:</b> Tepper
<b>Last Action:</b>	07/14/2025 H Filed
<b>Caption Version:</b>	Introduced
<b>Caption:</b>	Relating to a requirement that the ballot for an election to amend the state constitution include an estimate of the fiscal impact to the state of the proposed amendment.
<b>House Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Senate Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Companion:</b>	N/A
<b>89(1) HB 40</b>	<b>Author:</b> Harrison
<b>Last Action:</b>	07/14/2025 H Filed
<b>Caption Version:</b>	Introduced
<b>Caption:</b>	Relating to the vote required in an election to approve an ad valorem tax rate that exceeds a taxing unit's voter-approval tax rate; making conforming changes.
<b>House Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Senate Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Companion:</b>	N/A
<b>89(1) HB 43</b>	<b>Author:</b> Harrison
<b>Last Action:</b>	07/14/2025 H Filed
<b>Caption Version:</b>	Introduced
<b>Caption:</b>	Relating to the calculation of certain ad valorem tax rates of a taxing unit and the manner in which a proposed ad valorem tax rate that exceeds the voter-approval tax rate is approved; making conforming changes.
<b>House Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Senate Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Companion:</b>	N/A

<b>89(1) HB 48</b>	<b>Author:</b> Harrison
<b>Last Action:</b>	07/14/2025 H Filed
<b>Caption Version:</b>	Introduced
<b>Caption:</b>	Relating to the text of ballot propositions that increase taxes.
<b>House Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Senate Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Companion:</b>	N/A
<b>89(1) HB 49</b>	<b>Author:</b> Harrison
<b>Last Action:</b>	07/14/2025 H Filed
<b>Caption Version:</b>	Introduced
<b>Caption:</b>	Relating to a prohibition on the receipt of bond proceeds by persons who make a contribution to certain political committees.
<b>House Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Senate Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Companion:</b>	N/A
<b>89(1) HB 50</b>	<b>Author:</b> Harrison
<b>Last Action:</b>	07/14/2025 H Filed
<b>Caption Version:</b>	Introduced
<b>Caption:</b>	Relating to the vote required to approve the issuance of general obligation bonds by a political subdivision.
<b>House Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Senate Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Companion:</b>	N/A
<b>89(1) HB 52</b>	<b>Author:</b> Schofield
<b>Last Action:</b>	07/14/2025 H Filed
<b>Caption Version:</b>	Introduced
<b>Caption:</b>	Relating to the separation of federal elections from state and local elections, and to related practices and procedures.
<b>House Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Senate Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Companion:</b>	N/A

<b>89(1) HB 58</b>	<b>Author:</b> Schofield
<b>Last Action:</b>	07/14/2025 H Filed
<b>Caption Version:</b>	Introduced
<b>Caption:</b>	Relating to the creation of the office of state special prosecutor.
<b>House Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Senate Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Companion:</b>	N/A
<b>89(1) HB 67</b>	<b>Author:</b> Troxclair
<b>Last Action:</b>	07/14/2025 H Filed
<b>Caption Version:</b>	Introduced
<b>Caption:</b>	Relating to the requirements regarding an election to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds or to approve an increase in an ad valorem tax rate.
<b>House Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Senate Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Companion:</b>	N/A
<b>89(1) HB 68</b>	<b>Author:</b> Olcott
<b>Last Action:</b>	07/14/2025 H Filed
<b>Caption Version:</b>	Introduced
<b>Caption:</b>	Relating to increasing the threshold of voter approval for a school district bond election.
<b>House Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Senate Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Companion:</b>	N/A
<b>89(1) HB 73</b>	<b>Author:</b> Bucy
<b>Last Action:</b>	07/14/2025 H Filed
<b>Caption Version:</b>	Introduced
<b>Caption:</b>	Relating to electronic voter registration.
<b>House Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Senate Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Companion:</b>	N/A
<b>89(1) HB 80</b>	<b>Author:</b> Flores
<b>Last Action:</b>	07/14/2025 H Filed
<b>Caption Version:</b>	Introduced
<b>Caption:</b>	Relating to the provision of the reason for rejecting a voter registration application.
<b>House Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Senate Committee:</b>	N/A
<b>Companion:</b>	N/A

**89(1) HB 85**                      **Author:** Leo Wilson | et al.  
**Last Action:**                      07/14/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**                Introduced  
**Caption:**                            Relating to the duty of the attorney general to prosecute criminal offenses prescribed by the election laws of this state.  
**House Committee:**                N/A  
**Senate Committee:**               N/A  
**Companion:**                      SB 11 by Hughes | et al., Similar, 07/24/2025 S Committee report printed and distributed: Jul 24 2025 9:50AM

**89(1) HB 96**                      **Author:** Alders  
**Last Action:**                      07/15/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**                Introduced  
**Caption:**                            Relating to the date and requirements regarding an election to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds or other debt obligations payable from ad valorem taxes or to approve an increase in an ad valorem tax rate.  
**House Committee:**                N/A  
**Senate Committee:**               N/A  
**Companion:**                      N/A

**89(1) HB 98**                      **Author:** Hopper | et al.  
**Last Action:**                      07/15/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**                Introduced  
**Caption:**                            Relating to the prosecution of certain election offenses.  
**House Committee:**                N/A  
**Senate Committee:**               N/A  
**Companion:**                      N/A

**89(1) HB 101**                    **Author:** Bumgarner  
**Last Action:**                      07/15/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**                Introduced  
**Caption:**                            Relating to the authority of a political subdivision to propose for voter approval the issuance of general obligation bonds for a purpose rejected by voters at a bond election held during the preceding two years.  
**House Committee:**                N/A  
**Senate Committee:**               N/A  
**Companion:**                      N/A

**89(1) HB 103**      **Author:** Bell, Cecil  
**Last Action:**      07/16/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**      Introduced  
**Caption:**      Relating to state preemption of certain municipal and county regulation.  
**House Committee:**      N/A  
**Senate Committee:**      N/A  
**Companion:**      N/A

**89(1) HB 107**      **Author:** Swanson  
**Last Action:**      07/17/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**      Introduced  
**Caption:**      Relating to the vote required in an election to approve an ad valorem tax rate that exceeds a taxing unit 's voter-approval tax rate; making conforming changes.  
**House Committee:**      N/A  
**Senate Committee:**      N/A  
**Companion:**      N/A

**89(1) HB 119**      **Author:** Dean  
**Last Action:**      07/17/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**      Introduced  
**Caption:**      Relating to requiring voter approval for certain local tax rate increases adopted pursuant to a disaster declaration.  
**House Committee:**      N/A  
**Senate Committee:**      N/A  
**Companion:**      N/A

**89(1) HB 141**      **Author:** Phelan  
**Last Action:**      07/21/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**      Introduced  
**Caption:**      Relating to restrictions on political contributions by out-of-state contributors; providing a civil penalty.  
**House Committee:**      N/A  
**Senate Committee:**      N/A  
**Companion:**      N/A

**89(1) HB 142**                      **Author:** Phelan  
**Last Action:**                      07/21/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**                Introduced  
**Caption:**                            Relating to required disclosures on certain political advertising that contains altered media; creating a criminal offense.  
**House Committee:**                N/A  
**Senate Committee:**                N/A  
**Companion:**                        N/A

**89(1) HB 143**                      **Author:** Phelan  
**Last Action:**                      07/21/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**                Introduced  
**Caption:**                            Relating to political advertising distributed or broadcast as part of a mass text message campaign and civil penalties for required disclosures on certain political advertising.  
**House Committee:**                N/A  
**Senate Committee:**                N/A  
**Companion:**                        N/A

**89(1) HB 153**                      **Author:** Little  
**Last Action:**                      07/21/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**                Introduced  
**Caption:**                            Relating to the frequency of elections seeking voter approval for the issuance of school district bonds.  
**House Committee:**                N/A  
**Senate Committee:**                N/A  
**Companion:**                        N/A

**89(1) HB 162**                      **Author:** Tepper  
**Last Action:**                      07/21/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**                Introduced  
**Caption:**                            Relating to the review and approval of certain proposed municipal initiatives and referenda.  
**House Committee:**                N/A  
**Senate Committee:**                N/A  
**Companion:**                        N/A

**89(1) HB 193**      **Author:** Barry  
**Last Action:**      07/24/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**      Introduced  
**Caption:**      Relating to the authority of a taxing unit to use or transfer for the repayment of debt an increase in maintenance and operations ad valorem tax revenue attributable to a tax the rate of which is approved at an election.  
**House Committee:**      N/A  
**Senate Committee:**      N/A  
**Companion:**      N/A

**89(1) HB 196**      **Author:** Goodwin  
**Last Action:**      07/24/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**      Introduced  
**Caption:**      Relating to the Texas Redistricting Commission.  
**House Committee:**      N/A  
**Senate Committee:**      N/A  
**Companion:**      N/A

**89(1) HB 214**      **Author:** Phelan  
**Last Action:**      07/28/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**      Introduced  
**Caption:**      Relating to restrictions on political contributions by out-of-state contributors; providing a civil penalty.  
**House Committee:**      N/A  
**Senate Committee:**      N/A  
**Companion:**      N/A

**89(1) HJR 1**      **Author:** Shaheen  
**Last Action:**      07/28/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**      Introduced  
**Caption:**      Proposing a constitutional amendment specifying the authority of the attorney general to prosecute a criminal offense prescribed by the election laws of this state.  
**House Committee:**      N/A  
**Senate Committee:**      N/A  
**Companion:**      HJR6 by Leo Wilson | et al., Duplicate, 07/14/2025 H Filed  
HJR7 by Spiller | et al., Duplicate, 07/14/2025 H Filed

**89(1) HJR 6**                      **Author:** Leo Wilson | et al.  
**Last Action:**                      07/14/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**                Introduced  
**Caption:**                            Proposing a constitutional amendment specifying the authority of the attorney general to prosecute a criminal offense prescribed by the election laws of this state.  
**House Committee:**                N/A  
**Senate Committee:**                N/A  
**Companion:**                        HJR1 by Shaheen, Duplicate, 07/28/2025 H Filed  
    HJR7 by Spiller | et al., Duplicate, 07/14/2025 H Filed

**89(1) HJR 7**                      **Author:** Spiller | et al.  
**Last Action:**                      07/14/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**                Introduced  
**Caption:**                            Proposing a constitutional amendment specifying the authority of the attorney general to prosecute a criminal offense prescribed by the election laws of this state.  
**House Committee:**                N/A  
**Senate Committee:**                N/A  
**Companion:**                        HJR1 by Shaheen, Duplicate, 07/28/2025 H Filed  
    HJR6 by Leo Wilson | et al., Duplicate, 07/14/2025 H Filed

**89(1) HJR 14**                    **Author:** Alders  
**Last Action:**                      07/15/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**                Introduced  
**Caption:**                            Proposing a constitutional amendment to require a supermajority vote to authorize a political subdivision to issue general obligation bonds or other debt obligations payable from ad valorem taxes.  
**House Committee:**                N/A  
**Senate Committee:**                N/A  
**Companion:**                        N/A

**89(1) HJR 15**                    **Author:** Hopper | et al.  
**Last Action:**                      07/15/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**                Introduced  
**Caption:**                            Proposing a constitutional amendment specifying the authority of the attorney general to prosecute a criminal offense prescribed by the election laws of this state.  
**House Committee:**                N/A  
**Senate Committee:**                N/A  
**Companion:**                        N/A

**89(1) HJR 23**      **Author:** Goodwin  
**Last Action:**      07/22/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**      Introduced  
**Caption:**      Proposing a constitutional amendment to reserve to the people the powers of initiative and referendum.  
**House Committee:**      N/A  
**Senate Committee:**      N/A  
**Companion:**      N/A

**89(1) HJR 26**      **Author:** Goodwin  
**Last Action:**      07/24/2025 H Filed  
**Caption Version:**      Introduced  
**Caption:**      Proposing a constitutional amendment establishing the Texas Redistricting Commission to redistrict the Texas Legislature, Texas congressional districts, and State Board of Education districts and revising procedures for redistricting.  
**House Committee:**      N/A  
**Senate Committee:**      N/A  
**Companion:**      N/A

**89(1) SB 11**      **Author:** Hughes | et al.  
**Last Action:**      07/24/2025 S Committee report printed and distributed: Jul 24 2025 9:50AM  
**Caption Version:**      Senate Committee Report  
**Caption:**      Relating to the duty of the attorney general to prosecute criminal offenses prescribed by the election laws of this state.  
**House Committee:**      N/A  
**Senate Committee:**      State Affairs (Out)  
**Companion:**      HB 85 by Leo Wilson | et al., Similar, 07/14/2025 H Filed

**89(1) SJR 1**      **Author:** Johnson | et al.  
**Last Action:**      07/21/2025 S Filed  
**Caption Version:**      Introduced  
**Caption:**      Proposing a constitutional amendment to limit the time in which the legislature may enact or modify districts for the Texas Legislature or the United States House of Representatives.  
**House Committee:**      N/A  
**Senate Committee:**      N/A  
**Companion:**      N/A

**89(1) SJR 2****Author:** Miles**Last Action:**

07/24/2025 S Filed

**Caption Version:**

Introduced

**Caption:**

Proposing a constitutional amendment to prohibit the legislature, when apportioning a congressional district of which a majority of residents are included in a demographic group that is a minority in this state, from reducing the proportion of that group in the district if the legislature has apportioned the district at least once since the publication of the most recent United States decennial census.

**House Committee:**

N/A

**Senate Committee:**

N/A

**Companion:**

N/A

**89(1) SJR 3****Author:** Johnson | et al.**Last Action:**

07/25/2025 S Filed

**Caption Version:**

Introduced

**Caption:**

Proposing a constitutional amendment establishing an independent redistricting commission to establish districts for the election of the members of the United States House of Representatives elected from this state, the Texas Senate, and the Texas House of Representatives.

**House Committee:**

N/A

**Senate Committee:**

N/A

**Companion:**

N/A

**89(1) SR 5****Author:** King**Last Action:**

07/21/2025 S Reported enrolled

**Caption Version:**

Introduced

**Caption:**

Establishing rules of procedure to be observed by the Senate for the consideration of redistricting during the 89th Legislature.

**House Committee:**

N/A

**Senate Committee:**

N/A

**Companion:**

N/A

## Attorney General Ken Paxton Successfully Defends Texas's Voter ID Requirement for Mail-in-Ballots and Vote-by-Mail Applications

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From: Office of TX Attorney General (txattorneygeneral@public.govdelivery.com)

To: wineonthebeach@yahoo.com

Date: Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 12:33 PM CDT

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**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL *of* TEXAS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 5, 2025

[www.texasattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov)

**PRESS OFFICE: (512) 463-2050**

[Communications@oag.texas.gov](mailto:Communications@oag.texas.gov)

### **Attorney General Ken Paxton Successfully Defends Texas's Voter ID Requirement for Mail-in-Ballots and Vote-by-Mail Applications**

AUSTIN – Attorney General Ken Paxton successfully defeated an attempt to challenge Texas's requirement that voters put their ID number on mail-in ballots and vote-by-mail applications.

As part of S.B. 1, the Texas Election Integrity Act of 2021, Texas voters must list an ID number, such as a driver's license number, on any mail-in ballot or vote-by-mail application. Those challenging the law erroneously argued that efforts to verify voters' identity violate the 1964 Civil Rights Act. After a lower court issued an injunction against the requirement, Attorney General Paxton's office secured a stay of that injunction in 2023, allowing the voter ID requirement to go into effect.

Additionally, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has now issued an opinion officially defending the legality of the voter ID requirement for mail-in ballots and vote-by-mail applications.

“Voter ID is one of the most crucial tools in the battle against election fraud, and I’m pleased to see the court affirm our fundamental right to defend the integrity of our democratic process,” said Attorney General Paxton. “When voting by mail and applying to vote using that method, it’s vital that there is a requirement in place that allows us to verify the identity of the voter. We are going to enforce that requirement aggressively and continue to ensure that our state’s elections are secure.”

To read the ruling, [click here](#).

###

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