

County ~~Assistant~~
Clerk

Why Texas Elections are Not Safe or Secure

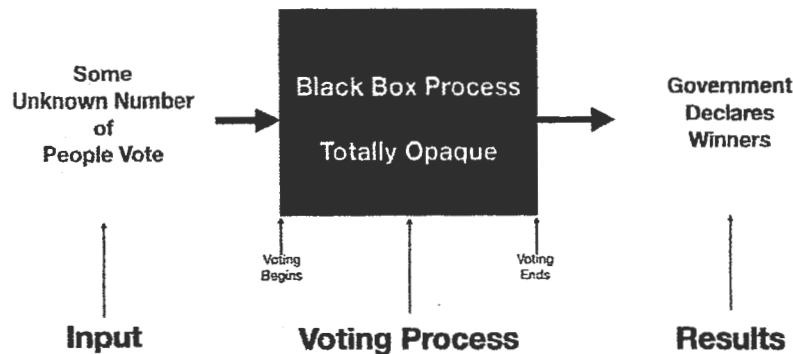
By Senator Bob Hall

The lack of accuracy, transparency, and accountability in the current Texas election process means it would be impossible to present sufficient evidence in a court of law to prove that anyone elected to public office was actually the intent of the majority of those who voted in their election.

The current Texas election process is a true "BLACK-BOX" operation. Why? Because there is no TRANSPARENCY, no ACCOUNTABILITY, and the ACCURACY is unknowable. There are only three things we know for sure at the conclusion of a Texas election:

1. Some unknown number of people cast votes,
2. The voting period began and ended; and
3. Winners were declared by a governing body.

Current Texas Election Process



This must change, but anytime a new idea is put forward to change any aspect of our election system, the first thing election people ask is: Why change? The current system works. This same statement is made by both those who do not understand the laws and by those who, for nefarious reasons, want to keep the flaws.

The answer "the current system works" can only be made because the government says it works; not because we know it works. In reality, we *know* little to nothing about how the process works or its accuracy. All we really know is that it has a list of ballot items, a date and time to begin, and a date and time to end. Everything else is assumed. This lack of known accuracy is because the election process is not transparent, and there is no meaningful accountability. Neither the voters nor the election workers are privy to what happens inside the "Black Box" election process and equipment.

The problem is not so much in what we know but in what we do not know. While there is a lot we do not know about the process, the biggest question that cannot be answered is:

"Is the winner declared by the government consistent with the intent of the majority of the people who cast their vote in that particular race?" The best answer possible today is "maybe," but there is no way to know for sure.

It is not possible, under the current Texas election process, to answer with any degree of confidence this question. It was not originally intended to be this way. But, in fact, the current processes, computers, and software have significantly degraded the transparency, accuracy, and accountability of Texas elections.

The love affair with technology and the sacrifice of security for convenience have been the downfall of our election system. With good intentions, computers were viewed as the solution to the ballot box stuffing that often-accompanied hand-marked paper ballots. Unfortunately, that has not been the case. Computers and software have increased the opportunities and frequency of error and fraud in ways never considered and to a level much greater than and more difficult to detect than that of the original system of hand-marked paper ballot.

Today, the announced winner of an election is only the winner because the government says they are the winner. The true winner is not only unknown; the true winner is unknowable with the current election system and electronic equipment. The three main reasons for this tragic situation we are now in are:

1. Lack of TRANSPARENCY
2. Unknown ACCURACY
3. Insufficient ACCOUNTABILITY

Our elections are too important not to have a system that delivers a high degree of confidence that the will of the people is being respected. The current system does not do that. There are a number of reasons for this unfortunate, degraded condition of our election process.

One reason is that the SoS Elections Office could fix most of the problems that currently render our election process highly vulnerable to error and fraud. The SoS Elections Office has the authority and ability to issue rules that could significantly reduce the opportunities for error and fraud but, to date, continues to refuse to do so. In fact, the same office has a sordid history of issuing "waivers" that have increased the possibility of errors and opportunities for fraud.

Another reason is that the legislature has allowed processes, procedures, and equipment to creep into the system, wherein security has been sacrificed for convenience. Our current system depends almost totally on computers and software, which we have no control over or knowledge thereof.

Some of these conveniences that degraded security and increased opportunities for errors are:

1. Technology
 - A. Computers
 - B. Electronic Poll Books
 - C. Internet connectivity
 - D. Blue Tooth Connectivity
 - E. Proprietary Software
2. Mail-in Ballots
 - A. Excessive Number
 - B. Flawed Verifications
 - C. Flawed Process
3. Procedures
 - A. County-Wide Voting
 - B. Unwarranted SoS Waivers
 - C. At Precinct no "Cast Ballot" to "Final Count" Verification
 - D. Weak Chain-of-Custody Procedures
 - E. Inability to Function Without Vendor Support
 - F. Less than Meaningful Accountability

While no election process can guarantee 100% accuracy 100% of the time, it is irresponsible for our legislature to continue to allow a system in which the ACCURACY is totally unknown, there is no meaningful ACCOUNTABILITY, and that is totally opaque (not TRANSPARENT).

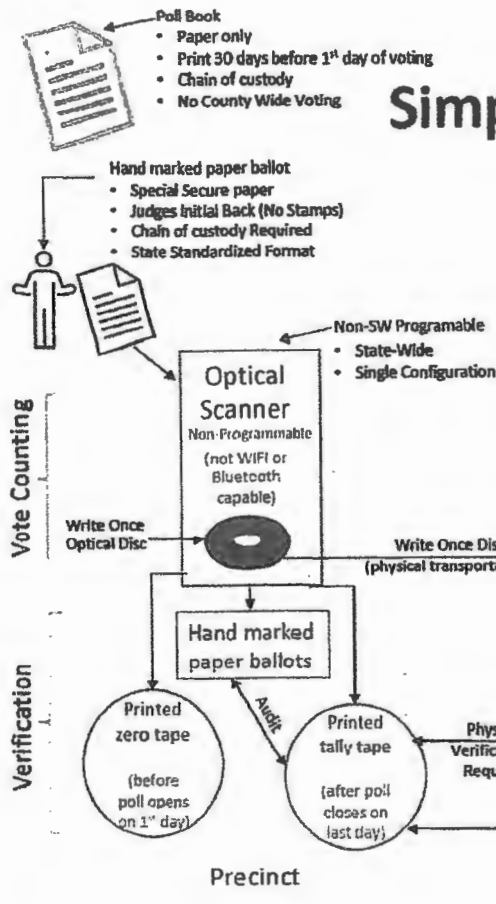
It is time for the legislature to stop allowing the elections equipment lobby, misguided bureaucrats enamored with technology, and the propensity for convenience to perpetrate this "Black Box" election process that has sacrificed security for convenience. Texans deserve to have an election process that yields a high degree of confidence that the people elected to office are the will of the people as expressed in their vote. This is not possible with the current election process, procedures, computers, and software used in Texas elections.

This is unacceptable and must change so that future generations of Texans can enjoy the blessings of liberty that our Founding Fathers and previous generations gave to us with the sacrifice of their life, liberty, and sacred honor. LET IT NOT BE IN VAIN.

**It is time for the Texas Legislature do whatever it takes to make Texas elections
ACCURATE, TRANSPARENT, and ACCOUNTABLE.**



Simplified Secure Voting Process



Revised
10/23/22

When a 10 cent ball point pen
can do the same job

Why spend \$3,500 +
to mark a ballot?



Demonstration General Election
Dense County, USA
November 3, 2024

Instructions

Marking Selections

Put an X in the oval to the left of the name of your choice. You must check the oval completely, and do not make any marks outside of the oval. You do not have to vote in every race.

Do not cross out or erase, or your vote may not count. If you have a question or a voting issue, ask for a new ballot from the poll workers.

Optional write-in
or write-in:
Ann

To add a candidate, fill in the oval to the left of "write-in" and print the name clearly in the space provided.

President
Vote for One

Andy Andrews

Bobby Brown

Cara Craig

Don Davis

Evan Edwards

Francine Franklin

Board of Commissioners
Vote for one person from these three.

Justine Jones

Kurt Kelly

Lisa Lewis

Mike Morgan

Nora Nelson

Oscar Olson

Percy Perez

U.S. Representative
District 1
Vote for One

Voting Day Question
Are you in favor of moving Election Day to Saturday?

Secure Elections for Transparency, Accuracy and Accountability

1. Three separate voting processes

PROBLEMS: Current overall election is excessively, cumbersome, complicated, and expensive. The two in-person voting processes (Early Voting and Election Day Voting) processes have different code, rules, and regulations. Mail-in Voting encompasses more people than necessary and is too susceptible to abuse and error.

SOLUTIONS:

- A. Mail-in Voting: Limit to three categories of eligibility
 - 1. Military,
 - 2. Disabled, and
 - 3. Eligible Voter who submits an affidavit swearing that they will be out of county entire voting period
 - 4. Must be requested by the voter
- B. Combine Early Voting and Election Day Voting into a single continuous period of time (20 states)
 - 1. Begins on 2nd Monday before Election Day (Tuesday).
 - 2. Current Election Day code, regulations, and rules to apply.
 - 3. Require "ZERO" tapes to be run immediately before poll opens on first voting day.
 - 4. Require "Results" tapes to be run immediately after poll closes on election day.
 - 5. Require county to verify precinct results tape audit before county sends results to state.
 - 6. Require state to verify county/precinct results tape audit before state canvass.
 - 7. Require 10% of precincts audit of at least two races in top and one race in bottom half of ballots for that precinct.

2. Electronic voting machines

PROBLEM: Electronic voting machines are expensive, unreliable, and difficult to use and unnecessary.

SOLUTIONS: Hand-marked paper ballots

- 1. Special counterfeit proof resistant
- 2. Sequentially numbered for each precinct
- 3. Judge hand-marked signature when issued to vote
- 4. Statewide standard format
- 5. Strict chain-of-custody maintained
- 6. Advantages of hand-marked paper ballots
 - Minimizes electronic dependency
 - Simplifies process
 - Establishes standardized statewide process
 - Increases transparency
 - Clear accountability
 - Allows: Made-in-America hardware
 - Significantly reduces software
 - Significantly lowers equipment cost
 - More user friendly
 - Eliminates WIFI/Bluetooth security threats
 - Continuous end-to-end verifications
 - Standardized ballot size and format

Line #	Voter Assistant (If additional voter assistant lines are necessary, continue on the back of this form) Include Name, Address Asistente de Votantes (si líneas adicionales son necesarias para asistente de votantes, continúe en el reverso de este formulario) Incluya Nombre Dirección
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Date of Election (Fecha de elección)

Signature (Firma)

Type of Election
(Tipo de elección)

Poll List (Lista de Votantes)

VOID

For use in the Primary Election - A person commits a criminal offense if the person knowingly votes in a primary election or participates in a convention of another party during the same voting year.

APFIDAVIT FOR VOTER NOT ON LIST: By initiating the square labeled "Affirmative for Voter Not on List," I swear or affirm that (A) I am a resident of the precinct in which I am offering to vote or otherwise certified to vote in that precinct, (B) was a resident of the precinct in which I am offering to vote at the time the information on my residence address was last provided to the voter registration, (C) did not deliberately provide false information to secure registration in which I do not reside, and (D) am voting only once in the election. "JURAMENTO DE VOTANTE: Afirmar con mis iniciales el cuadro marcado "Afirmativo para el Votador No en la Lista," yo declaro o afirmo que (A) soy residente del precinto en el que ofrezco votar o que de otro modo estoy autorizado para votar en este precinto, (B) era residente de este precinto cuando se me proporcionó la información para asegurarme mi registro en este precinto, (C) no di información falsa premeditadamente para asegurarme mi registro en este precinto, y (D) votaré solamente una vez en la elección. "ACCEPTAR DECLARACIÓN JURADA: Afirmar con mis iniciales el cuadro marcado "Acepto Afirmativo," yo declaro o afirmo que (A) soy residente del precinto en el que ofrezco votar o que de otro modo estoy autorizado para votar en este precinto, (B) era residente de este precinto cuando se me proporcionó la información para asegurarme mi registro en este precinto, (C) no di información falsa premeditadamente para asegurarme mi registro en este precinto, y (D) votaré solamente una vez en la elección. "VOTER'S SIMILAR NAME AFFIDAVIT: If it is determined that the name on the form of identification provided under § 53.01(b) is substantially similar per § 53.01(c), by initiating the square labeled "Similar Name Affidavit," I swear or affirm I am offering to vote as the person on the list of registered voters or the person on the voter registration certificate, and I am not the same as the person named in the identification provided. "DECLARACIÓN DE NOMBRE SIMILAR DEL VOTANTE: Si se determina que el nombre en el formulario de identificación provisto en el § 53.01(b) es sustancialmente similar previsible en el § 53.01(c), al iniciar el cuadrado etiquetado como "Declaración de Nombre Similar," yo juro o afirmo que voy a votar como la persona nombrada en la identificación, y yo soy uno y el mismo como la persona nombrada en la identificación. "ACCEPTAR DECLARACIÓN JURADA: Afirmar con mis iniciales el cuadro marcado "Acepto Afirmativo," yo declaro o afirmo que soy la persona en la lista de votantes registrados o la persona en el certificado de registro de votantes, y yo soy uno y el mismo como la persona nombrada en la identificación."

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

_____ day of _____, 20____

Presiding Judge _____

**Voter's
Initiative**
es del Volante)

Slurker News

Allday's
Deceased's Estate
de Nombres Smith

• **Wp17**

Secure Elections for Transparency, Accuracy and Accountability

3. Poll books

PROBLEM: Electronic poll books are continuously connected wirelessly to the internet and subject to remote manipulation.

SOLUTIONS: Eliminate electronic poll books

1. Paper only
2. Printed 30 days before in-person voting starts
3. Strict chain-of-custody
4. Will necessitate precinct or voting center voting

4. Precinct vote tallying

PROBLEM: Current electronic equipment is subject to manipulation, malware. Vendor software is proprietary, and the entire operation is non-transparent.

SOLUTIONS: Non-software programmable optical scanner

1. Not WIFI or Bluetooth capable
2. Write once optical memory disc
3. Read ballot once
4. Secure ballot storage

5. County tabulation

PROBLEM: Each county has its own process. Current tabulating process can be manipulated locally or remotely. No verification that county totals are consistent with precinct totals.

SOLUTIONS: County tabulation machines to be incapable of wireless internet connection and physical results hard-copy verified

1. Tabulation machine to be operated by county election personnel only
2. Hardwired tabulation machine.
3. County totals for every race to be verified against each precinct results tape numbers before submission to state or certified.
4. Transmission of county election results to be transmitted to the state via secure one-way VPN WIFI or landline link with public/private key.

6. Curbside voting

PROBLEM: Extensive abuse.

SOLUTIONS: Tighter restrictions

1. Limit curbside voting to legitimate disabled.
2. No one in the vehicle except the voter.
3. Physical assistance only provided by certified election workers.
4. Tighter limits on persons making multiple assists to the poll.
5. Severe penalty for violation.

ELECTIONS

Easier, Simple, Cheaper, and More Secure

Texans deserve to have a safe and secure election process but the current system of inconsistent, complex processes and easily compromised computers and software with secret algorithms is anything but safe and secure. This must change. Texans deserve an election system that is **ACCURATE**, **TRANSPARENT**, and **ACCOUNTABLE**. The current system fails in all three categories.

Figure 1 below summarizes the top five problems with the current Texas election process. It also explains why it is a problem and the proposed solution to make Texas elections **ACCURATE**, **TRANSPARENT**, and **ACCOUNTABLE**.

	Current Problems and Proposed Solutions	
PROBLEM	WHY it is a PROBLEM	SOLUTION
No polling location Results Tapes when Early Voting ends.	1. Without Early Voting Results tapes the county totals cannot be validated. 2. No way to prove published results are voter intent.	Eliminate the 3-day gap and have a Single in-person period that ends on Election Day.
Using polling location computers to mark ballots	1. Unnecessary Expense 2. Complicated to operate 3. Excessive Security Risk	Hand-marked secure Paper Ballots with ballpoint pen
Vote transfer chain-of-custody errors between Polling location and county and between county and SoS.	1. Electronic hacking cannot be prevented 2. Hacking can be undetectable 3. Lack of final vote validation with polling location numbers	1. Eliminate 3-day gap between Early Voting and Election Day. 2. Hand-marked Paper Ballots 3. Eliminate Precinct computers. 4. County to Polling location and state to precinct vote validation 5. Simple optical scanners to tabulate precinct votes.
Electronic Poll Books	Errors and remote manipulation are uncontrollable and difficult to detect	Paper Poll Books printed and secured 30 days before voting begins.
Lack of uniformity and consistency among 254 counties	1. Increase complexity of oversight by the state 2. Unnecessary opportunities for errors	Uniform election process and equipment. 1. Precinct Voting Only 2. Single in-person voting period 3. Hand-marked paper ballots 4. Simple scanners 5. Random precinct audits on election night 6. Paper poll books 7. Zero tapes before polls open on 1st day of voting 8. Results Tapes after polls close on last day of voting

Figure 1 - Current Complex Problems Have Simple Solutions that will make Texas elections easier, simpler, cheaper, and more secure.

ELECTIONS

Easier, Simple, Cheaper, and More Secure

The Texas current voting process is seriously flawed and in need of a complete overhaul.

Elections Easier, Cheaper, and More Secure

The current Texas election process, procedures, policies, and equipment have evolved over several decades. As technology changed (i.e., computers and electronic communication) and the public expressed a desire for more! convenience”, laws and SoS rules were written and changed without serious consideration of the devastating impact those changes had on security. Thus, the election system we have today in which there is no Transparency, Accountability, or Knowable Accuracy.

In Texas today, there are three ways to vote:

1. Mail-in ballots
2. Early in-person voting
3. Election Day in-person voting

Each of these three voting processes has different sets of code, rules, vulnerabilities and opportunities for error and fraud.

All three current voting processes are seriously flawed and in need of a complete overhaul. Unfortunately, the lack of concern and cooperation from the Texas SoS means that it will take legislation to accomplish the needed changes and those changes cannot be made until after the Texas Legislature meets in January 2023. Our only hope for safe and secure 2024 elections and beyond is the 88th Legislature.

Of the three voting processes, the least vulnerable to error and fraud, is Election Day In- Person voting. It is least vulnerable because it is a single day with stricter rules and poll- watchers can make a significant difference in minimizing errors and fraud.

The top five reasons for a single “In-Person” voting period are:

1. Zero Tapes can be run at the poll location just before voting begins on opening day.
2. Tally (Results) Tapes can be run at the polling location immediately after the poll closes before the machine is moved.
3. Transport of the memory card from the poll to the central counting location must be done with chain-of-custody, and poll-watchers are allowed to observe the transfer.
4. County Central Counting ballot item totals can be validated by verification with Precinct Tally (Results) Tapes before results are canvassed.
5. State-level ballot item totals can also be validated by verification with Precinct Tally (Result) Tapes before state results are canvassed.

Conclusion

- **Simplifies Elections:**

With one continuous voting period, there will be less confusion about when a person can go to the polls and only a single in-person set of ballots to count

- **Increase Security:**

Simplification and one process with uniform rules reduces the risk of error and opportunities for mishandling precinct results.

- **Reduces Confusion:**

Removes voter confusion about which days the polls are open.

- **County Cost Savings:**

Only one set of procedures and only necessary to deploy and recover voting equipment once instead of twice.

ELECTIONS

Easier, Simple, Cheaper, and More Secure

Thus, the transparency and accuracy of in-person voting can be greatly increased by simply merging "Early Voting" and "Election Day Voting" into a single event of "In-Person Voting".

While this will be new to Texas, it is not a new concept. 21 other states currently have a single in-person voting period like this proposed for Texas; half are Republican states and half are Democratic states.

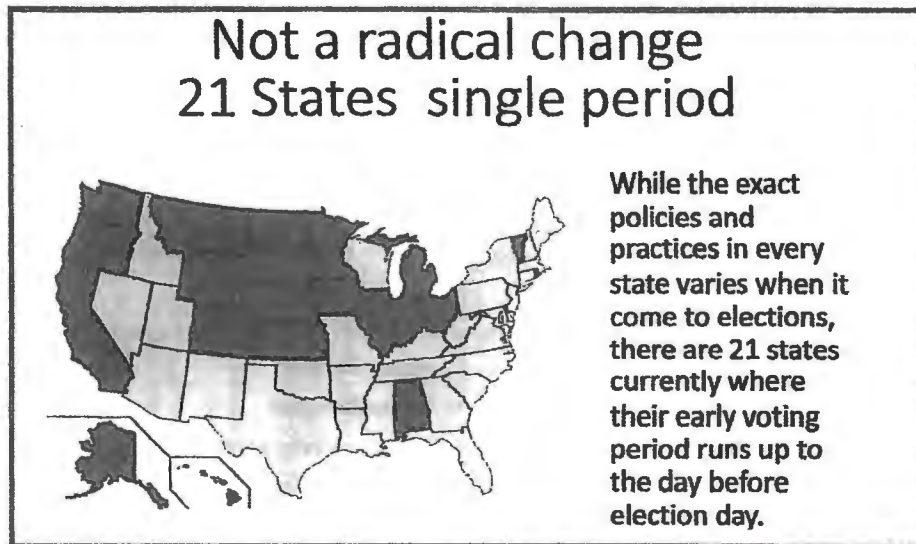


Figure 2 - Twenty-one states currently enjoy a single in-person period that ends on Election Day

Using the following criteria as parameters and objectives, a "clean-sheet" was used to derive this new election process:

- **Does Not Suppress Voter Turnout**
- **Increase Voter Turnout**
- **Reduces Election Process Complexity**
- **Reduces Election Cost**
- **Increases Transparency**
- **Increases Accuracy**
- **Increases Accountability**
- **Reduces Opportunities for Errors**
- **Reduces Opportunities for Fraud**
- **Increases Confidence in Results**

All the changes to our election process meet the above criteria.

ELECTIONS

Easier, Simple, Cheaper, and More Secure

EQUIPMENT and PROCESS CHANGES	
OBSOLETE - NO LONGER NEEDED	NEW
Polling Location Computers	Hand marked secure-paper ballots
Electronic Poll Books	Paper Poll Books printed 30 days before voting starts
County Wide Voting	Precinct only voting
Computer Software	Simple Optical Scanner • Write-once memory • Secure storage
Computer Generated Ballots	Paper Ballots • Secure Paper • Sequentially numbered for each precinct • Common Format • One-sided

Figure 3 - Unnecessary, Complex, and Expensive Equipment and Process Eliminated and Replaced with Easier, Simpler, Cheaper, and More Secure.

Twelve Key Elements:

The following are the twelve key elements for an election process that is Transparent, Accurate and Accountable. Figure 4 provides a summary of each one.

1. Single In-Person voting period
2. Zero Tapes
3. Results Tapes
4. Tabulators
5. Tabulator Deployment
6. Hand-Marked Paper Ballots
7. Paper Poll Books
8. County-to-Precinct Vote Verification
9. State-to-County/Precinct Verification
10. Close-Race Hand Recounts
11. Hand Counting
12. Curbside Voting

Texans eligible to vote want to know that their votes actually count.

ELECTIONS
Easier, Simple, Cheaper, and More Secure

KEYS TO NEW SECURE PROCESS	
	KEYS TO NEW SECURE PROCESS
1. Single In-Person Voting Period	1. Voting begins on the second Monday before Election Day 2. Voting ends when the polls close on Election Day
2. Zero Tapes	1. Printed at the polling location immediately before the first day of use. 2. Signed by both Election Judges and up to three poll-workers 3. Remain in secure storage
3. Results Tapes	1. Printed Immediately After Poll Close on Election Day at the polling location 2. Signed by both Election Judges and up to three poll-watchers
4. Tabulators	1. Non software programmable 2. Write-once memory 3. Built-in printer 4. Secure storage for read ballots 5. Secure storage for Printed Tapes 6. Common to all counties and polling locations
5. Tabulators Deployment	Once Deployed Poll Tabulators Must Remain Operational Until Poll Closes on ELECTION DAY
6. Hand-Marked Paper Ballots	1. Secure Paper 2. Sequentially numbered beginning with 1 for each poll location 3. Signed by Poll Judge when issued to the voter 4. Common, except for ballot items specific to counties and precincts
7. Poll Books	1. Paper only 2. Printed 30 days before first day of early voting 3. Signed at printing time by the Election Administrator and one witness from each of the two major parties 4. Kept in secure storage until moving to polling location 5. Chain-of-custody maintained 6. Secure storage required when polls not open
8. County Vote Verification	1. The county central counting will tabulate all the precinct votes. 2. Before submitting the county vote totals to the SoS there must be an independent verification with each county precinct to independently confirm that the county precinct votes match the Result Tapes printed immediately after the polls closed. 3. If there is a discrepancy between any county ballot item number and the Results Tape, the Results Tape number will be used by the county so long as the Results Tape has remained secure and chain-of-custody has been maintained. 4. In the event the Results Tape has not remained secure or a candidate questions its authenticity, a hand count will be conducted. 5. Hand-counted ballots will be the final authority so long as security and chain-of-custody is maintained.

ELECTIONS

Easier, Simple, Cheaper, and More Secure

KEYS TO NEW SECURE PROCESS	
9.State Vote Count Verification	Before the SoS finalizes the state official results, a verification procedure similar to that conducted by the counties will be conducted by the SoS. 1. An independent verification of the SoS preliminary final vote count will be made to confirm that each precinct number in the SoS preliminary totals is the same as the precinct number on the Results Tape printed immediately after the poll closed on election night. 2. If there is a discrepancy between any SoS ballot item and the Results Tape, the Results Tape will become the SoS official number so long as the Results Tape security and chain-of-custody has been maintained. 3. In the event the Results Tape has not remained secure or a candidate questions its authenticity, a hand count will be conducted. 4. Hand-counted ballots will be the final authority so long as security and chain-of-custody is maintained.
10.Close Race Recounts	Any candidate losing by 3% or less will be entitled to an immediate hand count recount. The hand-count total will prevail so long as a security and chain-of-custody has been maintained
11.Hand Counting	1. All hand counting will be open and transparent. 2. The entire process will be audio and video recorded. 3. Candidates and three designees will be allowed full access to the process. 4. The SoS will determine the counting process; SoS will conduct the recount. 5. The SoS will use a process nationally recognized and with an error rate of less than 1%.
12.Curb-Side Voting	1. Limited to disabled 2. Only disabled persons may remain in the vehicle while voting is being conducted. 3. Only an official election worker may assist a disabled voter who needs assistance marking a ballot. 4. No assistance may be given except by an official election worker

Figure 4 - The Twelve Key Changes to Making Texas Elections Easier, Simpler, Cheaper, and More Secure.

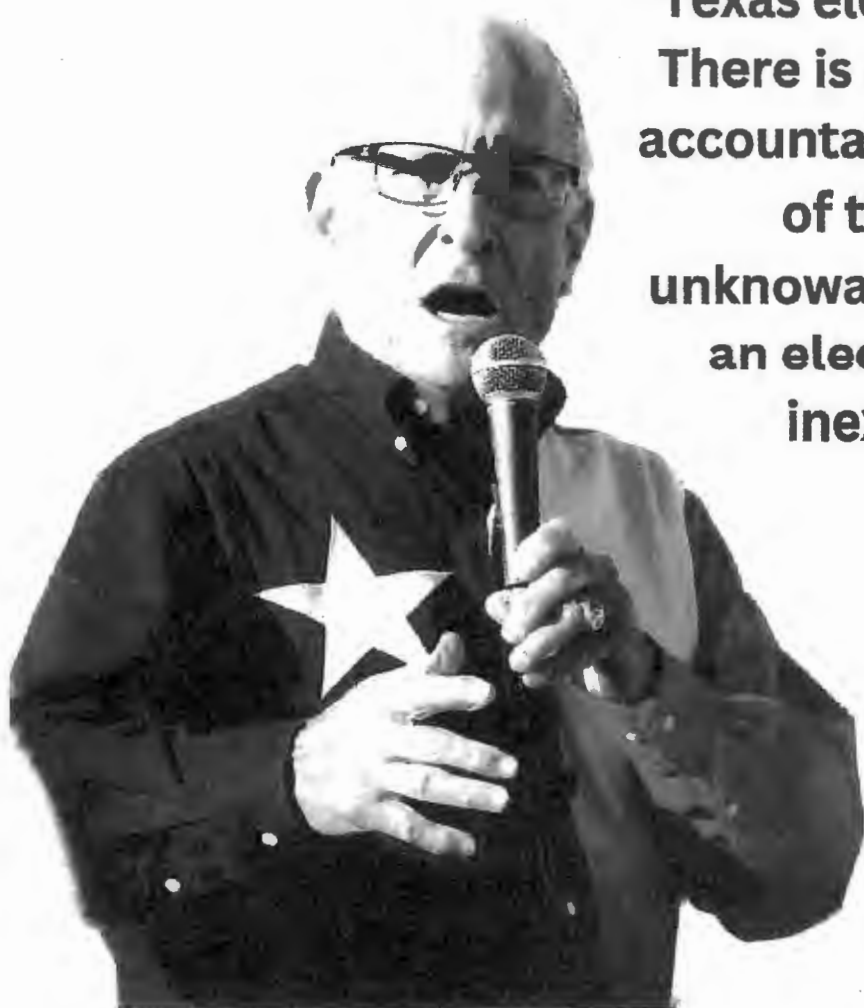
Implementation of these changes will give Texans a high degree of confidence that their votes do count. This increased confidence will increase voter turnout!

ELECTIONS

Easier, Simple, Cheaper, and More Secure

Major Takeaways:

- 1. The more complex an election process, the less confidence we can have in the outcomes.**
- 2. The current Texas election process lacks Transparency, Accountability, and Knowable Accuracy.**
- 3. With any in-person voting period (like our current Early Voting period) without the printing of the ZERO TAPE immediately before the poll first opens and the printing of the RESULTS Tape immediately after the poll closes on the last day, there is no way to know for sure the voters intent.**
- 4. Without a process that validates the vote count at both the Central Counting station and again at the SoS before the final count is official, it is not possible to say that the government-announced winners are the choices the voters made at the poll.**
- 5. Using a very expensive computer to place a mark on a paper ballot when it can be more accurate with a cheap ballpoint pen is a colossal waste of money.**
- 6. Electronic poll books have significantly reduced transparency and contribute to the unknowable accuracy and must be replaced with paper poll books.**



“Texas elections are too complicated. There is no transparency, almost no accountability, and the true accuracy of the published results is unknowable. Texans deserve to have an election process that is easy, inexpensive, and secure.”

Watch videos you may have missed on important issues to Texans.

Topics include COVID, Grid Security, Election Integrity, and other important major issues.

Find them by scanning this QR code



Senator Bob Hall

Senate District 2

www.SenatorBobHall.com

