

Honorable Speaker and Representatives, my name is Timothy Ross. I am testifying on behalf of myself. I oppose this bill because it makes it harder to eligible Texans to vote. **Among the many harmful provisions, this legislation would:**

- Prohibit election officials from distributing or soliciting absentee ballot applications
- Ban drive-through voting (except for voters eligible for curbside voting due to disability)
- Ban early voting sites not located inside buildings
- Ban 24 hour early voting, and sets permissible early voting hours (6 AM to 10 PM)
- Require voters to supply their driver license number or SSN4 on mail ballot applications and mail ballot envelopes, which must match the corresponding identification number on file. This would also be a privacy concern by making voters include sensitive personal information on the outside of mail-in ballot envelopes
- Give partisan watchers special rights to intimidate voters and disrupt polling places, while limiting the ability of poll Judges to provide a civil polling place free from coercion and intimidation where voters can peacefully exercise their right to cast a ballot.
- Create a vague criminal penalty against “vote harvesting” that could encompass ordinary interactions between campaigns and voters
- Make it a felony for someone to be paid to assist voters who vote by mail (with a limited exception)
- Require voter assistants to complete additional forms and oaths under penalty of perjury

**House Bill 3 (HB 3) would further:**

- Impose additional, needless barriers for voter registration
- Prevent local election officials from proactively and accurately informing voters about their voting options
- Limit local election officials’ ability to adapt their offices’ procedures to unforeseen circumstances and local conditions such as the current pandemic
- Prevent local election officials from providing voting resources based on their knowledge of local needs and voting patterns.

**I MOVE the Texas House to oppose this bill in its entirety because** it is a shameless attempt to make voting in Texas harder, especially for communities of color and young voters. Voting rights are the bedrock of our democracy. The state should be doing everything it can to ensure every eligible voter can cast a ballot, instead they want to restrict access. Last year’s increase in voter participation shouldn’t be seen as partisan—it should be seen as good for our democracy. HB 3 is dangerous, **anti-democratic, and must be blocked.**