

SUBJECT: Requiring building names and street addresses on polling location notices

COMMITTEE: Elections — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Klick, Cortez, Bucy, Burrows, Cain, Fierro, Israel, Middleton, Swanson

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Glen Maxey, Texas Democratic Party; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Heather Hawthorne, Joyce Hudman, and Jennifer Lindenzweig, County and District Clerks' Association of Texas; Daniel Greer, Direct Action Texas; Alan Vera, Harris County Republican Party Ballot Security Committee; Cinde Weatherby, League of Women Voters of Texas; Lon Burnam, Public Citizen; Chris Davis, Texas Association of Elections Administrators; Windy Johnson, Texas Conference of Urban Counties; Aryn James, Travis County Commissioners Court; Idona Griffith; Russell Hayter; Paul Hodson; Brandon Moore)

Against — None

On — Christina Adkins, Secretary of State

BACKGROUND: Election Code sec. 4.003(b) requires election authorities to post notices of general and special elections in certain public places. The notices must include the locations of polling places.

Sec. 4.004 requires that such notices also must include the nature and date of the election, the hours that the polls will be open, and any other information required by law.

DIGEST: HB 1241 would require that notices of polling place locations include the building name of the polling place, if any, and its street address.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 1241 would ensure that voters could easily access polling locations and eliminate confusion resulting from vague or incomplete election notices. The bill could especially benefit young or inexperienced voters and those who were unfamiliar with an area.

By requiring the street address of a polling location, the bill also would ensure that a voter could find a polling location even when a GPS device or online map service did not provide the correct address.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No concerns identified.