

**SUBJECT:** Revising requirements for ballot propositions on bond elections

**COMMITTEE:** Ways & Means — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 10 ayes — Meyer, Thierry, Button, Craddick, Gervin-Hawkins, Hefner, Muñoz, Noble, Shine, Turner

0 nays

1 absent — Raymond

**SENATE VOTE:** On final passage (April 20) — 20 - 9

**WITNESSES:** For — James Quintero, Texas Public Policy Foundation (*Registered, but did not testify*; Mark Bell, Association of Electric Companies of Texas; James LeBas, Texas Association of Manufacturers; Julia Parenteau, Texas Realtors; Jennifer Rabb, Texas Taxpayers and Research Association)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Guadalupe Cuellar, City of El Paso; Bill Kelly, Mayor’s Office, City of Houston; David Albert, Texas AFT / ACC AFT; Cicely Kay, Travis County Commissioners Court)

**BACKGROUND:** Some have suggested that voters should be provided with additional information regarding the effect on their property tax bills if voters approve a ballot item related to the issuance of debt obligations by a local taxing district.

**DIGEST:** CSSB 1252 would require that a proposition submitted to voters by a political subdivision for approval of the issuance of debt obligations would be required to:

- state the amount of or maximum tax rate of the tax or tax increase for which approval was sought;
- except as required, ensure print was in mixed-case typewritten letters; and
- include, in capital typewritten letters of the same font size as the

rest of the proposition, the statement "THIS IS A TAX  
INCREASE."

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023 and would apply only to an  
election ordered on or after the effective date.