



**Testimony on SB 1235,
Proposed Legislation relating to verification of the accuracy of voter registration
applications and voter registration lists**

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Texas Senate State Affairs Committee, March 26, 2021

Chair Hughes, Vice Chair Birdwell, and Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee,

I am testifying against SB 1235. Among other things, this bill would codify the same failed citizenship matching program from 2019 which I discussed in my testimony on SB 1114 and herein incorporate by reference. Similarly, the bill does not include any safeguard to ensure that flagged individuals indicated they are not citizens after their registration date. As with SB 1114, passing this bill with full knowledge of its discriminatory nature would necessarily raise an inference of intentional discrimination.

Beyond citizenship, the bill raises other serious concerns. The bill mentions signatures as a criterion. It is not clear what this implies. Comparing millions of driver's license signatures with millions of voter registration signatures would be impossible, but even if it were possible, there is no legal authority for questioning a voter registration based on a driver's license signature, and doing so would violate federal law.

The distinction between weak and strong matches highlights a fundamental misunderstanding of DPS data. DPS data can never reliably prove a voter is ineligible, because the DPS database is not a real time log of personal information. It's often years out of date, and, for in person transactions, relies on human input of data by customer service employees, so is inherently unreliable. An audit of DPS found that the agency "does not have sufficient controls over its processes for issuing driver licenses to ensure that it collects, retains, and verifies all required information." Any DPS matching should always be treated as weak matching.

Lastly, this bill is unnecessary because Texas already participates in the ERIC system, which entails comparing drivers license records from all participating states to voter registration databases from all participating states, and is a trusted system for doing so.