

Koy Kunkel_SC

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Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2021 9:52 AM
To: Senate Redistricting
Subject: INETMAIL: Redistricting Public Input

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Regarding: Senate

Message:

Dear Sen. Kolkhorst,

I am reaching out to you to ask that you not support Senate Bill 7 as it currently stands.

This bill would expansively roll back many common sense measures that safely allow Texans to vote.

It is basically a solution in search of a problem.

Governor Abbott has said he's concerned about voter fraud in our state when the data shows one is more likely to be struck by lightning than commit voter fraud. This is also after one of the most secure elections ever held, according to non-partisan election research.

According to Lisa Grieder of the Houston Chronicle:

What's especially chilling about this new focus on "election integrity" by our Republican leaders is that it's part of a nationwide trend.

Regarding SB 7:

"Senate Bill 7 is a voter suppression bill, plain and simple," said Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis in a statement. "It pulls straight from the Jim Crow playbook, targeting communities of color to silence their voices."

"Texas Senate Bill 7 isn't about 'election integrity,'" said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "It just makes it harder to vote. That's it."

Hidalgo also labeled the bill "a poll tax," noting that it would require voters with disabilities from receiving accommodations unless they substantiate their disabilities via medical documentation — not an insignificant hurdle for Texans who lack health insurance.

While SB 7 has more measures of that read as voter suppression rather than voter integrity, this is not to say that there is merit to some of the bill's proposals.

Sarah Walker of Secure Democracy, a nonpartisan nonprofit that works to improve election integrity across the United States, has this to say:

"It's very clearly and obviously a holdover from the 'Big Lie' that was propagated by Donald Trump," Walker continued, referring to the former president's repeated, thoroughly debunked assertions that he would have won a second term if not for widespread voter fraud in crucial battleground states. Trump actually lost the popular vote by more than 7 million votes.

There are, she noted, some meaningful steps that states could take that would help improve both the security of our elections and the confidence we have in them. One section of SB7, for example, would require the secretary of state to develop an online tool that would allow Texans who vote by mail to track the location and status of their ballot.

Sen. Kolkhorst, please review SB 7 with a non-partisan eye; our political leaders should be doing everything possible to ensure that as many of our citizens are given every opportunity as possible to lawfully cast their ballot.

Thank you,
Jaci Elliott
LCLWV member

