



ROBERT DUNCAN
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 28

SB 362: Voter Identification

Senator Robert Duncan

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As many of you may know, the Texas Senate as a Committee of the Whole recently debated the issue of voter identification. Senate Bill 362 authored by Senator Troy Fraser simply requires a person verify their identity in certain ways when they present to the poll.

There was much debate on the Senate floor in the committee of the whole on this legislation. The Senate debated this issue continuously for 23 hours before reaching a vote that passed the bill onto the full Senate for consideration.

The votes are there to pass this legislation because of a special order rule passed at the beginning of the session, where the bill does not now require 21 votes to be considered. The bill has 19 votes for passage, and I believe the Senate on Monday, March 16, will pass this legislation on to the House for their consideration.

This bill is substantially similar to the bill that actually passed the House last session. We believe this legislation should pass and be sent to the Governor this Legislative session. While there is much partisan controversy over this legislation, this bill simply ensures integrity at the ballot box which should be important to both Democrats and Republicans alike.

During the hearing, we heard much testimony about the concept of "voter harvesting". Voter harvesting is the practice of illegally obtaining votes and presenting them to the ballot box either by stuffing the ballot box or presenting imposters to cast votes illegally. It's very hard to detect, if not impossible- under our current laws.

This law will simply require a person verify their identity, either with a drivers license, another governmental issued photo ID, or a number of alternative methods, that should not be an impediment to any person voting, including those of color, those of a lower economic status, and the disabled or elderly.