



CITIZENS FOR
RESPONSIBILITY &
ETHICS IN WASHINGTON

September 9, 2021

Patsy Spaw
Secretary of the Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711-2068
patsy.spaw@senate.texas.gov

The Honorable Patsy Spaw:

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (“CREW”) makes this request for records from the Texas Senate pursuant to Chapters 551 and 552 of the Texas Government Code (“The Open Meetings Act” and “The Texas Public Information Act”, respectively).

Specifically, CREW requests the following records relating to Senate Bill 1 (“SB 1”) created on or before September 1, 2021:

1. All records discussing the potential effect of any provision of SB 1 on Black voters, Latino voters, other racial or ethnic minority voters, elderly voters, student voters, or voters with disabilities, including without limitation the following provisions of SB 1:
 - i. Drive-Thru Voting Ban (SB 1, Article 3, Sections 3.04, 3.12-3.13)
 - ii. Early Voting Hour Restrictions and Elimination of 24-hour voting (SB 1, Article 3, Sections 3.09 - 3.10)
 - iii. Elimination of Straight-Ticket Voting (SB 1, Article 3, Section 3.15)
 - iv. Reduction of Regulations on Poll Watchers and Subjecting Election Officials to a Class A Misdemeanor for Knowingly Obstructing a Poll Watcher’s View (SB 1, Article 4, Sections 4.01-4.04, 4.06, 4.09)
 - v. Prohibition of Vote-By-Mail Drop Boxes (SB 1, Article 4, Section 4.12)
 - vi. Voter Identification Requirements on Early Voting Ballot Applications (SB 1, Article 5, Section 5.02)
 - vii. Prohibition on Election Officials Soliciting Eligible Voters to Complete an Application for a Mail-In Ballot and Distributing Unsolicited Mail-In Ballot Applications; Prohibition on the Use of Public Funds to Facilitate Third-Party Distribution of Mail-In Applications (SB 1, Article 7, Section 7.04)
 - viii. Requirement for Individuals Who “Simultaneously” Transport Seven or More Voters to the Polls to Complete and Sign a Form Reporting Their Name and Address (SB 1, Article 6, Section 6.01)
 - ix. Requirement for Individuals Acting as Assistors to Voters to Disclose Identifying Information and Receipt of Compensation; Failure to



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Disclose the Required Information Correctly is a State Jail Felony (SB 1, Article 6, Sections 6.03, 6.05)

- x. Limitations on the Type of Assistance Provided in Voting and Requirement that Assistor Affirm to Such Limited Assistance (SB 1, Article 6, Section 6.04)
2. All records reflecting any analysis, consideration, or determination regarding how SB 1 would serve to prevent purported voter fraud or irregularities, including any evidence or data supporting such analyses.
3. All records relating to the legislative procedures by which SB 1 was passed, including, without limitation, records relating to:
 - i. Requirements or limitations regarding testimony from members of the public on the bill
 - ii. Requirements or limitations regarding legislative debate on the bill
 - iii. Efforts to expedite the legislative process for the bill
4. All records relating to the decision to make the bill effective December 2, 2021..
5. All records reflecting any communications, meetings, phone calls, or conversations regarding SB 1 or any predecessor version of that bill with representatives of any non-governmental or private organization, including without limitation the following organizations and individuals:
 - i. Heritage Action for America
 - ii. Heritage Foundation
 - iii. Susan B. Anthony List
 - iv. American Principles Project
 - v. Tea Party Patriots
 - vi. FreedomWorks
 - vii. American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)
 - viii. Family Research Council
 - ix. Honest Elections Project
 - x. State Policy Network
 - xi. Alliance Defending Freedom
 - xii. Federalist Society
 - xiii. Cleta Mitchell
 - xiv. Ken Cuccinelli

Please search for responsive records in the offices of the following senators:

- Senator Paul Bettencourt
- Senator Brian Birdwell
- Senator Dawn Buckingham
- Senator Donna Campbell
- Senator Charles Creighton
- Senator Bob Hall



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- Senator Kelly Hancock
- Senator Joan Huffman
- Senator Bryan Hughes
- Senator Lois Kolkhorst
- Senator Jane Nelson
- Senator Robert Nichols
- Senator Angela Paxton
- Senator Charles Perry
- Senator Charles Schwertner
- Senator Kel Seliger
- Senator Drew Springer
- Senator Larry Taylor

Please search for responsive records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics. We seek records of any kind, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical material. Our request includes without limitation all correspondence, letters, emails, text messages, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions. Our request also includes any attachments to emails and other records, as well as emails to which the subjects of this request were cc'ed or bcc'ed.

If it is your position that any portion of the requested records is exempt from disclosure, please state the basis of the exemption you contend is applicable. Tex. Code § 552.301. Further, should you intend to request a decision by the Attorney General concerning your determination to withhold any portion of the requested records, please provide a written statement and any communications to the Attorney General pertaining to said request within the applicable statutory period. Tex. Code § 552.301(d). If some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please redact those portions and produce the remainder of the requested records. Tex. Code § 552.221.

CREW is a non-profit corporation, organized under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. CREW is committed to protecting the public's right to be aware of the activities of government officials, to ensuring the integrity of those officials, and to highlighting and reducing the influence of money on politics. CREW intends to analyze the information responsive to this request and to share its analysis with the public. The release of information obtained through this request is not in CREW's financial interest.

If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, CREW agrees to pay up to \$100. However, CREW also requests a waiver of all fees associated with the instant request because the disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest. Tex. Code § 552.267. The public is entitled to information concerning the decision-making processes of the Texas Senate that factored into the passage of SB 1111, which will likely have a widespread effect on a significant portion of the state's voting populace. Further, this information is not being sought for commercial purposes. If copying fees are expected to exceed \$100, or if you



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anticipate that “extensive use” of information technology resources or extensive clerical or supervisory assistance will be needed to fulfill this request, please contact me at (202) 408-5565 or liheanachor@citizensforethics.org.

Where possible, please produce records in electronic format. Please send the requested records to me at either liheanachor@citizensforethics.org or Laura Iheanachor, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, 1331 F St. NW, Suite 900, Washington, D.C. 20004.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this request or foresee any problems in fully releasing the requested records.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Iheanachor", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Laura Iheanachor
Staff Counsel