

Call Your Texas Senator, Share This Message with Your Contacts!

Texas Republican Senators have reintroduced two bills for the 2025 legislative session that were previously passed along party lines in April 2023. These bills have significant implications for voting in Texas, aiming to reduce the number of constituents who participate in local, state, and federal elections within a district.

We need to let Texas Senators know we are paying attention to our voter rights in Texas:

1. The first bill, SB 76, refiled by Senator Hall (Collin, Dallas, Rockwall and others), seeks to eliminate countywide voting in Texas. Currently, 80% of Texas voters can cast their ballots at any polling location within their county—a system in place since 2009 with bipartisan support. If passed, this legislation would roll back that convenience, forcing voters to cast their ballots at a designated precinct polling place. Voter records show over 50% of Dallas County voters have voted outside their precinct in recent elections.
2. The second bill, SB 396, known as the 'Use It or Lose It' bill, imposes strict voter list maintenance measures on infrequent voters. Under this legislation, if you decide not to vote for a few years—despite not changing your address—you could unexpectedly receive a written confirmation notice from county elections requiring you to verify your current address within 30 days. If you miss the notice and fail to vote in two consecutive federal elections, you will be purged from the voter rolls and forced to re-register.

Why does this matter in Texas? Because Texas has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the country. The November 2024 election turnout in Texas was 56% of the voting-eligible population (64% nationwide). * Our research shows that SB 396 could impact a staggering four million active Texas voters. The table below shows almost 900,000 active voters could be impacted in just seven Texas counties:

Texas County	Active Voters at Risk for Purging from SB 396 (does not include voters in suspense status)	% at Risk of Total Active Voters in County	Texas Senators that Represent Constituents in this County
Collin	98,686	14%	Paxton, Hall, Hagenbuch
Dallas	334,717	25%	Johnson, West, Parker, Hall
Denton	86,632	14%	Parker, Hagenbuch
Fort Bend	101,501	20%	Miles, Kolkhorst, Huffman
Rockwall	11,871	14%	Hall
Smith	20,902	20%	Hughes
Tarrant	243,778	21%	Hancock, King, Parker, Birdwell, West
Total	898,087	20%	7 counties of 254

Act Now! Call your Senator's office and voice your concerns about these bills. The attached Word document has a table with Senators' names, links to their phone numbers, emails, their 2023 votes on these bills, and a breakdown of counties in their districts that have and do not have countywide voting. Please note Drew Springer, District 30, retired and Brent Hagenbuch is now the Texas State Senator since January 2025. And in District 15, John Whitmire resigned, and Molly Cook is the Texas State Senator since May 2024.

Here's a suggested script for a phone call to your Senator. Please adjust the script based on how your Senator voted. This information needs to be shared with all Texas Senators. And the bills will impact voter engagement for all Texas elected officials. Identical Texas House bills were filed in 2023 without House action. Identical bills have been filed in the Texas House for the 2025 session.

Hello, I'm calling about two election bills that were passed in the Texas Senate on a party line vote in April 2023 and have been reintroduced for the 2025 session.

1. Senator Hall has filed SB 76 to eliminate countywide voting.

I understand that 80% of registered Texas voters currently live in counties where they can vote at any polling location—a system that has been in place since 2009. Senator [XX] voted for this bill in 2023. I live in a county that has countywide voting and many of us take advantage of it to vote. I am very concerned to learn that Texas Republican Senators want to eliminate countywide voting.

Can you share why the Senator supported this bill in 2023 and how the Senator plans to vote in 2025? At a time when Texas has grown to over 18 million registered voters, why is a bill that restricts voting access being given serious consideration?

2. Senators Kolkhorst and Bettencourt have introduced SB 396, which would move active, infrequent voters to 'suspense' status if they haven't voted in 25 months.

Can you tell me why the Senator supports a bill that forces constituents to take extra steps to confirm their eligibility, simply because they decide not to vote in a few elections? Federal law clearly states that the right to vote is not contingent on participation.

I understand that when the county election office mails a written confirmation notice, the voter must respond to avoid being placed in suspense status. If they don't respond and then fail to vote in two federal elections, they will be purged from the voter rolls and must start the voter registration process all over again. And that means, in Texas, without an on-line voter registration system and within 30 days of an election. [Please note: the 2025 legislative session has several bills requiring the need for Texans to show documentary proof of citizenship in order to register to vote.]

Recent research by a Texas professor indicates that SB 396, the Use It or Lose It bill, could impact four million active voters across the state. Is the Senator aware of how many constituents in their district would be affected if this bill becomes law? (See table above for county information and additional counties will be added.)

3. What does the Senator expect will happen if these bills become law? How will he/she ensure that constituents are aware of the new election laws so they can stay registered and vote with confidence - versus an election with confusion and disruption?

4. Do these bills include funding to help the state and counties educate voters about these changes to their voting rights? If not, how will voters be informed?

For more information on countywide voting, here's an [article](#) from the Texas Tribune, February 2025, on Senator Hall's bill.

For more information on the Use It or Lose It bill, here's an [article](#) from the Texas Standard from April 2023 in an interview with Mimi Marziani, former President of the Texas Civil Rights Project. She is an adjunct professor at the University of Texas at Austin School of Law and a prominent civil rights litigator.

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Only Arkansas, Hawaii, Oklahoma and West Virginia had voting-eligible percent turnout below Texas in the November 2024 election.