

The US Chamber Opposes The *For The People Act* Even Though It Would Restrict Some Of The Worst Measures In Texas' Voter Suppression Bill SB 7

SUMMARY: Republican state lawmakers in Texas nearly passed "[expansive](#)" voter suppression bill Senate Bill (SB) 7 on May 30, 2021, but were narrowly blocked at the last-minute by Democratic legislators who staged a [surprise walk-out](#) and denied the quorum needed to advance the bill.

Although the Democratic lawmakers' gambit was successful for now, they pleaded for federal voting rights protections, specifically those in the [For the People Act](#). One state representative bluntly [said](#), "federal lawmakers need to get their s--- together and pass the *For The People Act*." Another noted, "breaking quorum is about the equivalent of crawling on our knees begging the president and the United States Congress to give us the *For the People Act* and give us the John Lewis Voting Rights Act."

The Texas lawmakers' urgent pleas are well-founded. The *For the People Act* would directly protect voters from some of SB 7's most egregious provisions, including:

- SB 7 Would Punish Election Officials Who Don't [Purge Voter Rolls](#)—The *For The People Act* Includes A Variety Of "[Strong Protections](#)" Against Such Purges, Which Disproportionately Harm Minority Voters.
- SB 7 Would [Ban Ballot Drop Boxes](#), Which Have Been Used For Decades "[Without Controversy](#)"—The *For The People Act* Would [Require Them](#).
- SB 7 Would Make It "[Illegal](#)" For Officials To Send Unsolicited Mail-In Ballot Applications To Voters—The *For The People Act* Would Require Such Applications To Be Sent To [All Registered Voters](#).
- SB 7 Would Require Voters To [Justify Absentee Ballots](#)—The *For The People Act* Would Require States To [Offer Mail-In Voting](#) To All Eligible Voters.
- SB 7 Would Heavily [Restrict Early Voting](#) Times And Locations—The *For The People Act* Would [Require All States To Use Early Voting](#) With Accessible Polling Hours And Locations.
- SB 7 Would [Add Voter ID Requirements](#) To Absentee Ballots—The *For The People Act* Would [Block Such ID Requirements](#) On Mail-In Ballots.

Although SB 7 was temporarily halted, it still poses a threat to predominantly [Black and Latino voters](#) in Texas. Republican Governor Greg Abbott "[vowed](#)" to revive the legislation in a special session later this year and even threatened to defund the state legislature as retaliation for blocking the bill. Governor Abbott made good on his vow with a special session [scheduled](#) to start Thursday, July 8 in order to revisit SB 7.

The *For the People Act* would serve as a critical safeguard not only against these undemocratic efforts in Texas, but it would also help protect voters from a national wave of voter suppression that has already enacted [28 election restrictions in 17 states](#) just since the 2020 election.

Texas Republicans' "Expansive" Voting Restriction Bill, SB 7, Was Nearly Passed Into Law, And Only Blocked By A "Surprise" Last-Minute Move By State Democrats Who Pleaded For Federal Voting Protections; The Bill Will Now Be Considered During A Special Legislative Session As Promised By Gov. Abbott.

Texas' SB 7, An "Expansive" Republican Voting Restriction Bill That Sought To Limit Early Voting, Restrict Local Voting Options, And Increase Barriers On Mail-In Voting, Originally Failed After Democratic State Lawmakers Staged A "Surprise" Walkout And Blocked The Bill's Passage.

Texas' Senate Bill (SB) 7—A "Priority" Of Republican State Lawmakers—Was An "Expansive Bill That Would Touch Nearly The Entire Voting Process." "Senate Bill 7, the GOP's priority voting bill, emerged Saturday from a conference committee as an expansive bill that would touch nearly the entire voting process, including provisions to limit early voting hours, curtail local voting options and further tighten voting by mail, among several other provisions." [The Texas Tribune, [05/30/21](#)]

SB 7 Was "One Of The Most Stringent" Voting Restriction Bills In The Country And Texas Already Had Some Of "The Harshest Voting Rules" In The Nation. "The surprise move by roughly 60 Democratic lawmakers headed off the expected passage of S.B. 7, a voting measure that would have been one of the most stringent in the nation, by denying Republicans a required quorum and forcing them to abruptly adjourn without taking a vote." [The Washington Post, [05/31/21](#)]

- **Texas Already Had Some Of "The Harshest Voting Rules Of Any State In The Country."** "Texas has, by one measure, the harshest voting rules of any state in the country. Now the Republican-controlled state government is working to make voting even harder — pushing legislation, similar to Georgia's SB 202, that appears designed to suppress votes in Democratic-leaning areas of the increasingly purple state." [Vox, [04/19/21](#)]

Among Its Many Provisions, SB 7 Would Have Limited Early Voting Hours, Limited Local Voting Options, And Increase Restrictions On Mail-In Voting. "Senate Bill 7, the GOP's priority voting bill, emerged Saturday from a conference committee as an expansive bill that would touch nearly the entire voting process, including provisions to limit early voting hours, curtail local voting options and further tighten voting by mail, among several other provisions." [The Texas Tribune, [05/30/21](#)]

Lawmakers Added New Voting Restrictions To SB 7, Including Voter ID Requirements For Mail-In Ballots, As They Reconciled The State House And Senate Versions Of The Bill. "It was negotiated behind closed doors over the last week after the House and Senate passed significantly different versions of the legislation and pulled from each chamber's version of the bill. The bill also came back with a series of additional voting rule changes, including a new ID requirement for mail-in ballots, that weren't part of previous debates on the bill." [The Texas Tribune, [05/30/21](#)]

May 30, 2021: Democratic State Lawmakers Defeated SB 7 By Staging A "Surprise" Walk-Out And Denying Republicans The Quorum Needed To Pass The Bill In Time. "Texas Democrats who defeated a Republican effort to pass a suite of new voting restrictions with a dramatic late-night walkout from the state House chamber on Sunday have a message for President Biden and his allies in Congress: If we can protect voting rights, you can, too. The surprise move by roughly 60 Democratic lawmakers headed off the expected passage of S.B. 7, a voting measure that would have been one of the most stringent in the nation, by denying Republicans a required quorum and forcing them to abruptly adjourn without taking a vote." [The Washington Post, [05/31/21](#)]

The Walk-Out Was "A Dramatic Act That Hasn't Been Done In Almost 20 Years." "A special legislative session is expected to be called by Gov. Greg Abbott after all 67 members of the Democratic Caucus members walked out on the final night of the 87th Legislative Session to avoid passing controversial Senate Bill 7, a dramatic act that hasn't been done in almost 20 years." [Fox 7, [06/01/21](#)]

Texas State Senators Voted For SB 7 On Party Lines Before The Bill's Ultimate Failure In The State House.

Texas State Senators Voted For SB 7 On A Party Line Vote Before Its Failure In The State House.

"Texas Republican lawmakers moved closer Sunday to imposing a slew of new restrictions on voting, as state Senate members voted along party lines to adopt legislation that would make mail-in voting more difficult and prohibit the after-hours and drive-through options that voting rights advocates said helped Black and Latino voters in the Houston area cast their ballots in the 2020 election. After nearly seven hours of debate, the lawmakers adopted the conference committee report for Senate Bill 7. The vote took place minutes after 6:00 a.m. CT. [...] The Texas House has not yet voted on SB7, though it is eligible for a vote late Sunday afternoon. It must do so before the deadline of midnight Sunday." [CNN, [05/30/21](#)]

Texas' Republican Governor Greg Abbott "Vowed" To Revive SB 7 In A Special Session Scheduled To Begin Thursday, July 8, 2021.

Republican Texas Governor Greg Abbott "Vowed" To Revive SB 7's Provisions In A Special Legislative Session Later In 2021 And Threatened To Defund The State Legislature As Retaliation For Democrats' Walkout. "Republicans control every branch of Texas government and hold firm majorities in both the House and Senate. While Gov. Greg Abbott (R) vowed late Sunday to bring the voting measure back at a special legislative session for redistricting later this year — and threatened to defund the legislature in a tweet on Monday — the walkout represented an unmistakable and shocking defeat for Republican leaders who had assumed the bill would pass ahead of the House's midnight deadline to finish its 2021 business." [The Washington Post, [05/31/21](#)]

The Revived SB 7 Will Now Be Voted On During A Special Legislative Session Scheduled To Start On Thursday, July 8. "Gov. Greg Abbott has announced the agenda for the special legislative session that begins Thursday, asking lawmakers to prioritize 11 issues that largely appeal to conservatives who wanted more out of the regular session. The announcement of the agenda came just over 24 hours before lawmakers are set to reconvene in Austin. The agenda includes Abbott's priority bills related to overhauling Texas elections and the bail system, as well as pushing back against social media "censorship" of Texans and the teaching of critical race theory in schools. [...] The special session is set to start at 10 a.m. Thursday and could last up to 30 days, with the potential for Abbott to add more items as it proceeds. It is one of at least two special sessions expected this year, with a fall special session coming to [address redistricting](#) and the [spending of billions of dollars of federal COVID-19 relief funds](#)." [Texas Tribune, [07/07/21](#)]

SB 7 Is Part Of A Wave Of State Voter Suppression Efforts In Which Republicans In 17 States Enacted 28 Voter Restriction Laws After The 2020 Election

As Of May 28, 2021, 14 States Enacted 22 Voting Restrictions Since The 2020 Election As "Part Of A National Republican Effort." "State lawmakers have enacted nearly two dozen laws since the 2020 election that restrict ballot access, according to a new tally by the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law. These 22 laws in 14 states mark a new record for restrictive voting laws since 2011, when the Brennan Center recorded 19 laws enacted in 14 state legislatures. Most of the new laws make it harder to vote absentee and by mail, after a record number of Americans voted by mail in November. [...] The legislative push is part of a national Republican effort to restrict access to the ballot box following record turnout in the 2020 election. Republicans currently control both chambers of 30 state legislatures, including in Texas, Georgia and Arizona." [CNN, [05/28/21](#)]

According to The Brennan Center For Justice, 17 States Have Enacted 28 New Laws Restricting Voting Access As Of June 21, 2021. "As of June 21, 17 states enacted 28 new laws that restrict access to the vote. With some state legislatures still in session, more laws will certainly follow, which we will track in the next roundup later this year." [Brennan Center for Justice, [accessed 07/07/21](#)]

Texas Lawmakers Who Blocked SB 7 Pleaded For Federal Voting Protections In The *For The People Act*, With One Saying, "Mr. President, We Need A National Response" And Another Saying, "Federal Lawmakers Need To Get Their S--- Together And Pass The For The People Act."

The Texas State Lawmakers Who Blocked SB 7 Pleaded For Federal Voting Rights Protections, With One Saying "Mr. President, We Need A National Response" And "Breaking Quorum Is About The Equivalent Of Crawling On Our Knees Begging The President And The United States Congress."

Texas State Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer, Who Participated In The Walkout That Blocked SB 7, Said, "Mr. President, We Need A National Response To Federal Voting Rights." "We knew today, with the eyes of the nation watching action in Austin, that we needed to send a message,' state Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer, a San Antonio Democrat, said at a news conference held at a historically Black church in Austin early Monday, shortly after he and other lawmakers left the state Capitol. "And that message is very, very clear: Mr. President, we need a national response to federal voting rights." [The Washington Post, [05/31/21](#)]

Martinez Fischer Said, "Breaking Quorum Is About The Equivalent Of Crawling On Our Knees Begging The President And The United States Congress To Give Us The For The People Act And Give Us The John Lewis Voting Rights Act." "In an interview, Martinez Fischer said that national leaders need to rise to the occasion. 'Breaking quorum is about the equivalent of crawling on our knees begging the president and the United States Congress to give us the For the People Act and give us the John Lewis Voting Rights Act,' he said." [The Washington Post, [05/31/21](#)]

Another Texas Lawmaker Said, "Federal Lawmakers Need To Get Their S--- Together And Pass The For The People Act."

State Rep. James Talarico Said, "Federal Lawmakers Need To Get Their S--- Together And Pass The For The People Act." "We did our part to stop SB 7,' tweeted state Rep. Erin Zwiener (D). 'Now we need Congress to do their part.' 'State lawmakers are holding the line,' tweeted state Rep. James Talarico (D). 'Federal lawmakers need to get their s--- together and pass the For The People Act.'" [The Washington Post, [05/31/21](#)]

Texas Congressman Marc Veasey Said Of The *For The People Act* And The *John Lewis Voting Rights Act*, "If We Don't Pass These Bills, Then Shame On Us."

Congressman Marc Veasey, Co-Founder Of The Congressional Voting Rights Caucus, Said, "If We Don't Pass These Bills, Then Shame On Us" And "Be Prepared To See Even More Of These Bills Continue To Make Their Way Through The States." "Rep. Marc Veasey (D-Tex.), a co-founder of the Congressional Voting Rights Caucus, said in an interview Monday that Congress must find a way to pass federal voting protections in part because Black voters are the Democrats' most reliable constituency — and are under the gravest threat from GOP-proposed restrictions around the country. 'If we don't pass these bills, then shame on us,' Veasey said. 'And be prepared to see even more of these bills continue to make their way through the states.'" [The Washington Post, [05/31/21](#)]

The For The People Act Would Reverse Many Of The Voting Restrictions States Passed Following The 2020 Election And The John Lewis Voting Rights Act Would Renew Federal Voting Rights Act Oversight In States With Histories Of Racial Discrimination.

The For The People Act Would Reverse Many Of The Voting Restrictions Passed Since The 2020 Election And Create National Standards For Election Administration. "Biden, for his part, has repeatedly pushed for passage of the For the People Act. The legislation would establish national standards for election administration, reversing many of the restrictions pursued by Republican-controlled legislatures in the wake of the 2020 election under pressure from Trump, who has claimed repeatedly without evidence that his defeat was tainted by widespread fraud." [The Washington Post, [05/31/21](#)]

The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act Would Reauthorize The 1965 Voting Rights Act And Renew Federal Power To Police Voting In Areas With Histories Of Racial Discrimination. "[...] the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would reauthorize the seminal 1965 Voting Rights Act by giving the federal government fresh power to police jurisdictions with histories of racial discrimination in voting administration." [The Washington Post, [05/31/21](#)]

SB 7 Would Punish Election Officials Who Don't Purge Voter Rolls—The For The People Act Includes A Variety Of "Strong Protections" Against Such Purges, Which Disproportionately Harm Minority Voters.

SB 7 Punishes Election Officials Who Don't Purge Voter Rolls, Even After A 2019 "Fiasco" Purged Nearly 100,000 New Citizens And As Texas Has Dramatically Increased Purges In Recent Years.

SB 7 "Punishes County Registrars Who Don't Sufficiently Purge The Voter Rolls"—Even After A 2019 "Fiasco" Purged Almost 100,000 Recently Naturalized Citizens From Voter Rolls. "One of the two big bills, SB 7, has already passed the Texas Senate. The other, HB 6, has been approved for a floor vote by the House Elections Committee. Together, these bills contain a series of provisions that seem likely to suppress voter turnout. The Senate bill imposes new rules limiting precinct placement that only apply to large urban counties. It punishes county registrars who don't sufficiently purge the voter rolls, threatening a repeat of a 2019 fiasco in Texas in which nearly 100,000 recently naturalized citizens were pushed off the rolls." [Vox, [04/19/21](#)]

Texas Senator Paul Bettencourt, Chair Of The Senate Republican Caucus, Said He Wants To Specifically Add A New Provision To SB 7 To "Bring Back A Requirement That State Officials Purge Noncitizens From Voter Rolls," As Officials Are Now Able To Better Handle The Associated Data. "Sen. Paul Bettencourt, a Houston Republican who chairs the Senate Republican Caucus, said he and others are likely to add new provisions to the legislation. He specifically wants to bring back a requirement that state officials purge noncitizens from voter rolls — a practice that failed two years ago when then-Secretary of State David Whitley misidentified tens of thousands of legal citizens as ineligible to vote. Bettencourt said officials now better understand how to use the data and can give time for people to respond to notices that their citizenship is being questioned. 'They did not handle the data correctly,' he said of the 2019 incident." [Houston Chronicle, [07/06/21](#)]

Texas Has Increased Voter Purges In The Last Decade—Purging Over 360,000 More Voters From 2012 To 2014 Than It Did From 2008 And 2010. "Texas purged 363,000 more voters between 2012 and 2014 than it did between 2008 and 2010." [Brennan Center for Justice, [03/18/21](#)]

The For The People Act Includes A Variety Of "Strong Protections Against Improper Purges," Which Disproportionately Harm Minority Voters.

The For The People Act Includes "Strong Protections Against Improper Purges," Including Checks On Often-Flawed Interstate Voter Databases, A Prohibition Against Election Officials Purging Voters Who Miss Elections, And Requirements For Election Officials To Provide Timely Notice For Purged Voters.

"The For the People Act creates strong protections against improper purges. It puts new guardrails on the use of interstate databases (such as the now-defunct and much-maligned Crosscheck system) that purport to identify voters that have reregistered in a new state, but that have been proven to produce deeply flawed data. It prohibits election officials from relying on a citizen's failure to vote in an election as reason to remove them from the rolls. And it requires election officials to provide timely notice to removed voters, as well as an opportunity to remedy their registration before an election." [Brennan Center for Justice, [03/18/21](#)]

Voter Purges, Which Disproportionately Affect Minority Communities, Often "Disenfranchise Legitimate Voters And Cause Confusion And Delay At The Polls." "Incorrect purges disenfranchise legitimate voters and cause confusion and delay at the polls. And purge practices can be applied in a discriminatory manner that disproportionately affects minority voters. In particular, matching voter lists with other government databases to ferret out ineligible voters can generate racially discriminatory results if the matching is done without adequate safeguards. Black, Asian American, and Latino voters are much more likely than white voters to have one of the most common 100 last names in the United States, resulting in a higher rate of false positives." [Brennan Center for Justice, [03/18/21](#)]

SB 7 Would Ban Ballot Drop Boxes, Which Have Been Used For Decades "Without Controversy"—The *For The People Act* Would Require Them.

SB 7 Would Ban Ballot Drop Boxes—The *For The People Act* Would Require States To Provide Secure And Accessible Drop Boxes, Which Were Used For Decades "Without Controversy" Before Trump Started Criticizing Them.

SB 7 Would Ban Ballot Drop Boxes. "CNN obtained the final language of SB7 and has read through the bill. The bill would ban after-hours voting -- such as what Harris County, which includes Houston, and other major metropolitan areas offered in 2020, easing lines and helping shift workers. It would also prohibit ballot drop boxes and the drive-through voting centers that the heavily Democratic Harris County used." [CNN, [05/30/21](#)]

The For The People Act Would Require States To Provide Secure And Accessible Drop Boxes For Absentee Ballots. "require states to provide a sufficient number of secure, accessible, and widely distributed drop-boxes for completed absentee ballots in federal elections, starting at least 45 days before an election;" [Brennan Center for Justice, [03/18/21](#)]

Ballot Drop Boxes Increased Election Access For Millions Of Voters During The COVID-19 Pandemic "As the U.S. Postal Service struggled and COVID-19 raged, millions of 2020 voters chose to return their mail ballots using official ballot drop boxes rather than risk unreliable mail delivery or crowded spaces." [PolitiFact, [05/19/21](#)]

Ballot Drop Boxes Had Previously "Been Used In Blue And Red States For About Two Decades Without Controversy," But Became A Target Of Criticism After Trump Called Them A "'Voter Security Disaster.'" "These drop boxes — often big, sturdy, slotted, steel receptacles — had been used in blue and red states for about two decades without controversy. But in the heat of 2020 politics, they became a flashpoint for partisan bickering as then-President Donald Trump described them as a 'voter security disaster.'" [PolitiFact, [05/19/21](#)]

SB 7 Would Make It "Illegal" For Officials To Send Unsolicited Mail-In Ballot Applications To Voters—The *For The People Act* Would Require Such Applications To Be Sent To All Registered Voters.

SB 7 Would Make It "Illegal" For Unsolicited Mail-In Ballot Applications To Be Sent To Voters—The *For The People Act* Would Require Mail-In Applications To Be Sent To All Registered Voters Long Before Election Day.

SB 7 Would Make It "Illegal" For Officials To Send Mail-In Ballot Applications To Voters Who Did Not Request Them. "The bill would make it illegal for elections officials to send applications to vote by mail to people who did not request one. And it would bar counties from helping facilitate the distribution of unsolicited ballot requests -- preventing them from working with get-out-the-vote groups." [CNN, [05/30/21](#)]

The For The People Act Would Require Mail-In Ballot Applications To Be Sent To All Registered Voters At Least 60 Days Before Election Day. "[...] require state or local election officials to transmit mail-in ballot applications to all registered voters at least 60 days before Election Day;" [Brennan Center for Justice, [03/18/21](#)]

SB 7 Would Require Voters To Justify Absentee Ballots—The *For The People Act* Would Require States To Offer Mail-In Voting To All Eligible Voters.

SB 7 Would Require Voters To Justify Their Need For Absentee Ballots, While The *For The People Act* Would Require States To Offer Mail-In Voting To Any Eligible Voter.

SB 7 Would Increase Mail-In Voting Restrictions By Requiring Voters To Justify Their Need For Absentee Ballots Through Disclosing Disability Or Illness. "In a state with tight eligibility rules for voting by mail, the bill also further heightens the threshold for who can qualify based on a disability. Current law allows voters to qualify if they have a sickness or physical condition that prevents them from voting in person without the "likelihood of needing personal assistance or of injuring the voter's health." The bill sets a higher standard by requiring a voter to be certain they will "not be capable" of voting in person based on their condition and sets four specific categories a voter must choose from to qualify based on a disability — illness, injury, medical confinement ordered by a medical professional and mental or physical disability." [Texas Tribune, [05/29/21](#)]

The For The People Act Would Require States To Offer Mail-In Voting To Any Eligible Voter. "require states to allow any eligible voter to vote by mail in federal elections (no-excuse absentee voting);" [Brennan Center for Justice, [03/18/21](#)]

SB 7 Would Heavily Restrict Early Voting Times And Locations—The *For The People Act* Would Require All States To Use Early Voting With Accessible Polling Hours And Locations.

SB 7 Would Limit Early Voting Hours, Ban 24-Hour Voting, And Block County Officials From Setting Election Times—The *For The People Act* Would Extend Early Voting To All States, Requiring Them To Set Accessible Polling Hours And Locations.

SB 7 Would Limit Polling Locations And Blocks County Officials From Setting Election Times. "Limits when and where you can vote and removes county officials' discretion to set election times (pp. 8 - 13):

SB 7 Would Ban Drive-In Voting, 24-Hour And Late-Night Voting, And Limits Early Voting Hours. "SB 7 would codify Republicans' objections to drive-thru voting and 24-hour voting into the state election code by: [...] Banning drive-thru voting or polling places inside tents or other temporary structures, with no voting allowed from inside a vehicle except by those with a disability who qualify for curbside voting. [...] • Banning 24-hour voting or extended hours for in-person voting by mandating that voting centers could open no earlier than 6 a.m. and close no later than 9 p.m." [PolitiFact, [06/02/21](#)]

Harris County And Other Metropolitan Areas Relied On After-Hours Voting In The 2020 Election To Reduce Lines And Increase Access. "CNN obtained the final language of SB7 and has read through the bill. The bill would ban after-hours voting -- such as what Harris County, which includes Houston, and other major metropolitan areas offered in 2020, easing lines and helping shift workers." [CNN, [05/30/21](#)]

The For The People Act Would Extend Early Voting To All States And Set Minimum Standards For Early Voting. "This subtitle would extend early voting to all 50 states and establish minimum standards for its implementation in federal elections. [...]" [Brennan Center for Justice, [03/18/21](#)]

Specifically, The For The People Act Would Require At Least Two Weeks Of Early Voting, Including On Weekends, In Early Mornings, And In Late Evenings—Additionally The Bill Would Require Early Voting Locations To Be Easily Accessible. "require states to allow at least two weeks of early voting for federal elections (including weekends), for a period of at least ten hours per day, including some early morning and evening hours; require states to ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that early voting locations are within walking distance of public transportation, are accessible to rural voters, and are located on college campuses; and [...]" [Brennan Center for Justice, [03/18/21](#)]

SB 7 Would Add Voter ID Requirements To Absentee Ballots—The *For The People Act* Would Block Such ID Requirements On Mail-In Ballots.

SB 7 Would Add Voter ID Requirements To Absentee Ballots—The *For The People Act* Would Block States From Requiring ID On Mail-In Ballots Other Than Signatures.

SB 7 Includes Voter ID Requirements For Absentee Ballots, A Provision Seen As "Making It Harder For Voters To Access The Ballot Box And Harder For Election Workers To Do Their Jobs." "SB 7 extends voter ID requirements to absentee ballots, requiring voters to submit information like their driver's license number or the last four digits of their Social Security number on their mail-in ballot application. HB 6 requires voting assistance volunteers to take an oath forswearing telling voters which candidates to vote for 'by word, sign, or gesture.' Violating this oath, even unintentionally, is a felony comparable to criminally negligent homicide. From these provisions, you can get a clear sense of what SB 7 and HB 6 are all about: making it harder for voters to access the ballot box and harder for election workers to do their jobs, often in ways that seem designed to hand Republicans a partisan advantage." [Vox, [04/19/21](#)]

SB 7 Would Require Mail-In Ballot Applicants To Include Their Driver's License Or Social Security Number, As Well As "Matching Information On The Envelopes Used To Return Their Ballots." "The new provisions include language from separate Republican bills that failed to pass that would set a new voter ID rule for mail-in ballots, requiring voters to provide their driver's license number or the last four digits of their

Social Security number, if they have one, on their applications for those ballots. For their votes to be counted, voters will be required to include matching information on the envelopes used to return their ballots." [Texas Tribune, [05/30/21](#)]

The For The People Act Would Block States From Requiring ID On Mail-In Ballots, Other Than Voters' Signatures. "[...] prohibit states from requiring voters casting a ballot by mail to provide identification aside from a signature, and require signature discrepancy issues to be resolved by at least two trained election officials affiliated with different parties;" [Brennan Center for Justice, [03/18/21](#)]