

## Executive Summary

# Election Integrity for Texas: Mail-in Ballot and solution

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### Statement:

Mail-in ballots should be from voters who cannot vote in person and are eligible to apply for the mail-in ballots. The critical part of the mail-in ballot's integrity is to verify and confirm the mail-in ballots are truly cast by the eligible voters. This critical process is required by Texas election codes. However, flaws in the procedures resulted in failures to adequately verify those citizens who chose to vote by mail. The enclosed findings show the concerns associated with the mail-in ballot acceptance procedures and processes:

1. Voter Signature verification: Per Texas election code Sec 87.027(i), The voters' signature on the ballot carrier envelop shall be verified by the ABBM Signature Verification Committee or Ballot Board who compares the signature on carrier envelope with the signature on the application, and with any known signatures of the voter's on file to determine whether the signature is it of the voter. I worked at the Tarrant County ballot board for the Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> 2022 election, and I observed the ballots being accepted regardless of the signature matching to those on file. The members in the Signature Verification Committee assumed the voters change the way they sign their names on the basis they are getting older or they might have had a strokes. The process is subjective and based on assumptions, therefore, it is not feasible Please see my affidavit attached.
2. Curing defective ballots: I observed that most mail-in ballots to be cured were missing ID numbers. Texas Secretary of state provides a curing method online for voters to provide the missing DL Number or last four digits of SSN. This method does not prevent another person's submission of the ID number other than the voters themselves or the voters' relatives. (sec 86.015 & Election Advisory No. 2022-08 )
3. Assisting voter on mail-in ballots: The Secretary of State November 2020 election audit found one single person assisted 393 mail-in ballot applications in Dallas County (Page 8 – Final Report on Audit of 2020 General Election in Texas). The number of voters being assisted by one single person is not regulated by the Texas election code. The audit report did not mention any further investigation into the person weather assisting with multiple mail-in ballots. While I observed and worked in the Tarrant County's ballot board, I noticed once a signature was signed by an assistant on a mail-in ballot carrier envelope, no further signature verification was attempted. Though not knowing the number of mail-in ballots been assisted by this person, this extremely high number of assistance should be an alert of potential fraud.

4. Mail-in ballots with incorrect absentee reason: The Secretary of State 2020 General election audit has found 353 voters in Tarrant county obtained mail-in ballots as over 65 year old of age but the audit could not determine whether they were miscoded or ineligible (Page 10 Final Report on Audit of 2020 General Election in Texas). When 353 ballots are identified with the same type of mistake (in this case, proper absentee reason), this should be a red flag.

**State audit findings regarding to large quantities of Mail-in ballots in 2020 General Election:**

The Final Report on the Audit of 2020 General Election in Texas – Page 8, Dallas County showed 78,147 mail-in ballots were counted, however, all other sources of data could not reconcile to this number:

- Dallas County provided four sources of data showing mail ballots statistics. These sources were inconsistent and none matched the canvass.

Source	Mail Ballots Returned	Mail Ballots Not Accepted	Mail Ballots Accepted
ABBM Report	72,119	11,573	60,546
Ballot by Mail Voter Roster	77,617	539	76,838
List of Voter Sent Mail Ballot	73,265	11,545	61,533
Election Audit Workbook	91,919	15,080	76,839
Canvass			78,147

*Figure 1-1: Dallas County Ballot by Mail Statistics*

The greater unreconcilable numbers have been found in Harris County per Page 211-212 of the audit report:

- The number of mail-in ballots sent out =206,020,
- The number of mail-in ballots accepted = 179,174,
- The number of voters that surrendered their mail-in ballots and vote in person =45,225,

The accepted and surrendered mail-in ballots is 224,339, which should be the same or less of total mail-in ballots sent out, compare to the number of mail-in ballots sent out 206,020, there is an 18, 379 difference.

What impact did the 18,379 extra mail-in ballots have on Harris County Nov. 2020 election?  
What's the root cause?

**Proposed solution**

The key concern for mail-in ballot integrity is the voters not voting in person. It's difficult to determine the mail-in ballot is legal or eligible based on the above four findings. Plus the findings are reported by the SoS election audit. These issues reveal that mail-in ballots are high risks for nefarious activity and they affect the integrity of our election. Therefore, the amount of mail-in ballots shall be minimized to reduce the risk. Only allowing the military, disabled voters and voter over 75 to vote by mail-in ballots.

**Value**

Many issues have been found in mail-in ballots in the past elections, by election workers, election researchers, and by the Secretary of State election audit authorities. Many questions have been raised and have gone unanswered. The mail-in ballot has the ability to impact the election results in some of the Texas counties and affects our election integrity. Limiting the number of mail-in ballots is an effective solution to reduce the erroneous impact on our election and will ensure election integrity.

Back up documents:

1. Affidavit on mail-in ballot signature verification
2. Final Report on Audit of 2020 General Election in Texas – by Texas Secretary of State  
<https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/fad/2020-Audit-Full.pdf>