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Bettencourt Passes Senate Bill 2219 to Ensure Greater Uniformity in Elections to Protect Taxpayers
SB 2219 will guarantee uniform and fair elections by providing requirements for issuing bonds or other debt
This legislation will call for an end to dog days of summer elections

Austin, Texas - Senator Paul Bettencourt (R-Houston) passed bipartisan legislation, Senate Bill 2219 through the Texas Senate with a vote of 22-9. This bill, a refile to SB 642, authored by Senator Bettencourt in the 85th Legislative session, will make sure all issuance of bonds, other debt or change in tax are held on a uniform November election date so all voters are informed and provided with accurate ballot language in order to make an informed decision. A Co-author of this legislation includes Senator Brian Birdwell (R-Granbury), who amended the bill to provide greater transparency for voters. Senator Pat Fallon (R-Prosper) is also a co-author of this bill.

"Move these tax rate increase elections to where they belong, the November General Election where voter turnouts are much higher and the elections costs a fraction of what they are in the "Dog Days of Summer" elections," said Senator Bettencourt. **"It is paramount that we provide transparency so all voters have a chance to confidently make their voice heard,"** he added.

In June, voters in Klein ISD defeated a 9-penny property tax rate increase that saw just 9,263 voters out of 151,142 (6.13%) cast their ballots. **"This demonstrates clearly why uniform election dates in November are a true representation of letting the people vote,"** said Senator Bettencourt.

SB 2219 would make the following changes:

- Requires a proposition for approval of the issuance of bonds or other debt to be submitted to the voters in an election held on the November uniform election date
- Allows for an emergency election as declared by the Governor, submitted to the voters on any uniform election date
- Prohibits a proposition of the issuance of bonds from exceeding 5,000 characters or a different limit prescribed by the secretary of state that ensures that the length of the proposition does not exceed one page of the ballot or one screen on an electronic voting machine.

"It's important that Texas works towards greater uniformity in the November election process." said Senator Bettencourt. **"This bill is a step in the right direction to establish safeguards to ensuring all aspects of elections are fair for the voters and taxpayers,"** he added.

This legislation is apart of a larger package of election transparency bills that are moving through the Senate.

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