

1-1 By: Bettencourt S.B. No. 2219
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 8, 2019; March 21, 2019, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Property Tax;
1-4 April 23, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 5,
1-5 Nays 0; April 23, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	<u>Bettencourt</u>	X		
1-9	<u>Paxton</u>	X		
1-10	<u>Creighton</u>	X		
1-11	<u>Hancock</u>	X		
1-12	<u>Hinojosa</u>	X		

1-13 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-14 AN ACT

1-15 relating to ballot propositions authorizing political subdivisions
1-16 to issue bonds or other debt or to impose or change a tax.

1-17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-18 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 41, Election Code, is
1-19 amended by adding Section 41.0051 to read as follows:

1-20 Sec. 41.0051. PROPOSITION FOR APPROVAL OF ISSUANCE OF BONDS
1-21 OR OTHER DEBT. (a) A proposition for approval of the issuance of
1-22 bonds or other debt shall be submitted to the voters in an election
1-23 held on the November uniform election date, except as provided by
1-24 Subsection (b).

1-25 (b) Notwithstanding Section 41.0011(a), an emergency
1-26 election under Section 41.0011 at which a proposition described by
1-27 Subsection (a) is submitted to the voters shall be held on any
1-28 uniform election date.

1-29 (c) If a law outside this code requires a proposition
1-30 described by Subsection (a) to be submitted to the voters in an
1-31 election held on a date other than the November uniform election
1-32 date, the authority administering the election shall set the
1-33 election date to comply with this section.

1-34 SECTION 2. Section 52.072, Election Code, is amended by
1-35 amending Subsection (e) and adding Subsection (f) to read as
1-36 follows:

1-37 (e) In addition to any other requirement imposed by law for
1-38 a proposition, including a provision prescribing the proposition
1-39 language, a proposition in an election of a political subdivision,
1-40 including a city, county, school district, or special taxing
1-41 district, submitted to the voters for approval of ~~the issuance of~~
1-42 ~~bonds or~~ the imposition, increase, or reduction of a tax shall
1-43 specifically state, as applicable:

1-44 (1) ~~[with respect to a proposition seeking voter~~
1-45 ~~approval of the issuance of bonds:~~

1-46 ~~[(A) the total principal amount of the bonds to~~
1-47 ~~be authorized, if approved, and~~

1-48 ~~[(B) a general description of the purposes for~~
1-49 ~~which the bonds are to be authorized, if approved;~~

1-50 ~~[(2)] with respect to a proposition that only seeks~~
1-51 ~~voter approval of the imposition or increase of a tax:~~

1-52 (A) ~~[7]~~ the amount of or maximum tax rate of the
1-53 tax or tax increase for which approval is sought;

1-54 (B) the estimated additional tax burden that
1-55 would be imposed on a homestead with a value equal to the median
1-56 homestead value in the political subdivision, as computed by the
1-57 appraisal district, after the imposition or increase of the tax, if
1-58 approved; and

1-59 (C) a detailed description of the purposes for
1-60 which the tax is to be imposed or increased, if approved; or

1-61 (2) ~~[(3)]~~ with respect to a proposition that only

2-1 seeks voter approval of the reduction of a tax:
2-2 (A) [~~7~~] the amount of tax rate reduction or the
2-3 tax rate for which approval is sought; and
2-4 (B) the estimated tax reduction for a homestead
2-5 with a value equal to the median homestead value in the political
2-6 subdivision, as computed by the appraisal district, if the
2-7 reduction of the tax is approved.

2-8 (f) A proposition to which Subsection (e) applies or for
2-9 approval of the issuance of bonds may not exceed:
2-10 (1) 5,000 characters; or
2-11 (2) a different limit prescribed by the secretary of
2-12 state that ensures that the length of the proposition does not
2-13 exceed one page of the ballot or one screen on an electronic voting
2-14 machine.

2-15 SECTION 3. Chapter 1251, Government Code, is amended by
2-16 designating Sections 1251.001, 1251.002, 1251.003, 1251.004,
2-17 1251.005, and 1251.006 as Subchapter A and adding a subchapter
2-18 heading to read as follows:

2-19 SUBCHAPTER A. PROVISIONS RELATING GENERALLY TO BOND ELECTIONS

2-20 SECTION 4. Chapter 1251, Government Code, is amended by
2-21 adding Subchapter B to read as follows:

2-22 SUBCHAPTER B. BALLOT PROPOSITION FOR BONDS ISSUED BY POLITICAL
2-23 SUBDIVISION

2-24 Sec. 1251.051. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies to
2-25 bonds issued by any political subdivision, including a
2-26 municipality, county, school district, or special taxing district.

2-27 Sec. 1251.052. FORM. A proposition seeking voter approval
2-28 of the issuance of bonds shall specifically state:

2-29 (1) a general description of the purposes for which
2-30 the bonds are to be authorized;

2-31 (2) the total principal amount of the bonds;

2-32 (3) the total amount of the political subdivision's
2-33 debt secured by ad valorem taxes currently outstanding;

2-34 (4) the total amount of the political subdivision's
2-35 current payments on debt secured by ad valorem taxes;

2-36 (5) the amount of taxes required to be imposed on a
2-37 homestead with a value equal to the median homestead value in the
2-38 political subdivision, as computed by the appraisal district, to
2-39 repay the political subdivision's current debt obligations secured
2-40 by ad valorem taxes; and

2-41 (6) the estimated tax burden that would be imposed on a
2-42 homestead with a value equal to the median homestead value in the
2-43 political subdivision, as computed by the appraisal district, to
2-44 repay the bonds to be authorized, if approved.

2-45 SECTION 5. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
2-46 an election ordered on or after the effective date of this Act. An
2-47 election ordered before the effective date of this Act is governed
2-48 by the law in effect when the election was ordered, and the former
2-49 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

2-50 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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