

1-1 By: Landgraf (Senate Sponsor - Sparks) H.B. No. 4749
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 5, 2025;
 1-3 May 5, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on State
 1-4 Affairs; May 25, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote:
 1-5 Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 25, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15			X	
1-16	X			
1-17			X	
1-18	X			

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to reconstitution of the petit jury wheel and grand juror
 1-22 and petit juror qualifications in certain counties.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Article 19A.101, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
 1-25 amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to
 1-26 read as follows:

1-27 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (a-1), a [A] person may
 1-28 be selected or serve as a grand juror only if the person:

- 1-29 (1) is at least 18 years of age;
- 1-30 (2) is a citizen of the United States;
- 1-31 (3) is a resident of this state and of the county in
 1-32 which the person is to serve;

1-33 (4) is qualified under the constitution and other laws
 1-34 to vote in the county in which the grand jury is sitting, regardless
 1-35 of whether the person is registered to vote;

- 1-36 (5) is of sound mind and good moral character;
- 1-37 (6) is able to read and write;
- 1-38 (7) has never been convicted of misdemeanor theft or a
 1-39 felony;

1-40 (8) is not under indictment or other legal accusation
 1-41 for misdemeanor theft or a felony;

1-42 (9) is not related within the third degree by
 1-43 consanguinity or second degree by affinity, as determined under
 1-44 Chapter 573, Government Code, to any person selected to serve or
 1-45 serving on the same grand jury;

1-46 (10) has not served as a grand juror in the year before
 1-47 the date on which the term of court for which the person has been
 1-48 selected as a grand juror begins; and

1-49 (11) is not a complainant in any matter to be heard by
 1-50 the grand jury during the term of court for which the person has
 1-51 been selected as a grand juror.

1-52 (a-1) A person is not disqualified under Subsections (a)(3)
 1-53 and (4) to serve as a grand juror in a county with a population of
 1-54 less than 1,000 if that person is:

- 1-55 (1) a resident of a county contiguous to and within the
 1-56 same judicial district as the summoning county; and
- 1-57 (2) qualified under the constitution and laws to vote
 1-58 in the contiguous county.

1-59 SECTION 2. Article 19A.201, Code of Criminal Procedure, is
 1-60 amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

1-61 (a-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), in a county with a

2-1 population of less than 1,000, grand jurors may be randomly
2-2 selected from a fair cross section of the population of one or more
2-3 counties contiguous to and within the same judicial district as the
2-4 summoning county who:

2-5 (1) hold a valid Texas driver's license or a valid
2-6 personal identification card or certificate issued by the
2-7 Department of Public Safety; and

2-8 (2) are not disqualified from grand jury service under
2-9 Article 19A.101(a)(1), (2), or (7).

2-10 SECTION 3. Section 62.001, Government Code, is amended by
2-11 amending Subsections (a), (b), and (d) and adding Subsection (a-1)
2-12 to read as follows:

2-13 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (a-1), the [The] jury
2-14 wheel must be reconstituted by using, as the source:

2-15 (1) the names of all persons on the current voter
2-16 registration lists from all the precincts in the county; and

2-17 (2) all names on a current list to be furnished by the
2-18 Department of Public Safety, showing the residents [~~citizens~~]
2-19 of the county who:

2-20 (A) hold a valid Texas driver's license or a
2-21 valid personal identification card or certificate issued by the
2-22 department; and

2-23 (B) are not disqualified from jury service under
2-24 Section 62.102(a)(1) [~~62.102(1)~~], (2), or (8).

2-25 (a-1) In a county with a population of less than 1,000, the
2-26 jury wheel may be reconstituted by using, in addition to the sources
2-27 required under Subsection (a):

2-28 (1) the names of all persons on the current voter
2-29 registration lists from all the precincts in one or more counties
2-30 contiguous to and within the same judicial district as the
2-31 summoning county; and

2-32 (2) all names on a list required by Subsection (a)(1)
2-33 showing the residents of one or more counties contiguous to and
2-34 within the same judicial district as the summoning county who:

2-35 (A) hold a valid Texas driver's license or a
2-36 valid personal identification card or certificate issued by the
2-37 Department of Public Safety; and

2-38 (B) are not disqualified from jury service under
2-39 Section 62.102(a)(1), (2), or (8).

2-40 (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a) or (a-1), the names of
2-41 persons listed on a register of persons exempt from jury service may
2-42 not be placed in the jury wheel, as provided by Sections 62.108,
2-43 62.109, 62.113, 62.114, and 62.115.

2-44 (d) The lists [~~list~~] required by Subsections [~~Subsection~~]
2-45 (a)(1) and (a-1)(1) must exclude the names of persons on the
2-46 suspense list maintained under Section 15.081, Election Code.

2-47 SECTION 4. Section 62.0132(g), Government Code, is amended
2-48 to read as follows:

2-49 (g) The information contained in a completed questionnaire
2-50 may be disclosed to:

2-51 (1) a judge assigned to hear a cause of action in which
2-52 the respondent to the questionnaire is a potential juror;

2-53 (2) court personnel;

2-54 (3) a litigant and a litigant's attorney in a cause of
2-55 action in which the respondent to the questionnaire is a potential
2-56 juror; and

2-57 (4) other than information provided that is related to
2-58 Section 62.102(a)(8) [~~62.102(8)~~] or (9), the voter registrar of a
2-59 county in connection with any matter of voter registration or the
2-60 administration of elections.

2-61 SECTION 5. Section 62.102, Government Code, is amended to
2-62 read as follows:

2-63 Sec. 62.102. GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS FOR JURY SERVICE. (a)
2-64 Except as provided by Subsection (b), a [A] person is disqualified
2-65 to serve as a petit juror unless the person:

2-66 (1) is at least 18 years of age;

2-67 (2) is a citizen of the United States;

2-68 (3) is a resident of this state and of the county in
2-69 which the person is to serve as a juror;

3-1 (4) is qualified under the constitution and laws to
 3-2 vote in the county in which the person is to serve as a juror;
 3-3 (5) is of sound mind and good moral character;
 3-4 (6) is able to read and write;
 3-5 (7) has not served as a petit juror for six days during
 3-6 the preceding three months in the county court or during the
 3-7 preceding six months in the district court;
 3-8 (8) has not been convicted of misdemeanor theft or a
 3-9 felony; and
 3-10 (9) is not under indictment or other legal accusation
 3-11 for misdemeanor theft or a felony.

3-12 (b) A person is not disqualified under Subsections (a)(3)
 3-13 and (4) to serve as a juror in a county with a population of less
 3-14 than 1,000 if that person is:

3-15 (1) a resident of a county contiguous to and within the
 3-16 same judicial district as the summoning county; and

3-17 (2) qualified under the constitution and laws to vote
 3-18 in the contiguous county.

3-19 SECTION 6. The change in law made by this Act applies only
 3-20 to the qualifications of a person summoned for grand jury or petit
 3-21 jury service on or after the effective date of this Act. The
 3-22 qualifications of a person summoned for grand jury or petit jury
 3-23 service before the effective date of this Act are governed by the
 3-24 law in effect on the date the summons was made, and the former law is
 3-25 continued in effect for that purpose.

3-26 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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