



# CITY OF HOUSTON

Sylvester Turner

Mayor

P.O. Box 1562  
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

Telephone – Dial 311  
[www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov)

April 1, 2021

The Honorable Briscoe Cain  
Chairman, House Elections Committee  
Texas House  
Austin, Texas 78711

**Re: HB 6**

Dear Chairman Cain and Members of the House Elections Committee,

There is no more cherished right in America than the right to vote. Democracy is simply not possible without the consent of the governed. House Bill 6 by jeopardizes that right and places a higher value on election security than on securing the right to vote.

In 2018, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's office logged more than 22,000 staff hours investigating alleged voter fraud, yet resolved just 16 minor cases involving wrong addresses and resulted in no jail time. HB 6 is a solution in search of a problem. It criminalizes innocuous behaviors, such as distributing voter registration materials and ballot assistance for people with disabilities, yet empowers untrained, partisan poll watchers to interfere with the election process by stating that one may be removed *only* for engaging in activities that constitute election fraud.

During the last election, voters benefitted from voting expansions, such as extending early voting hours, extended hours at polling place, and allowing hand-delivery of vote-by-mail ballots during early voting. In spite of partisan lawsuits and heavy scrutiny, there is no evidence that these measures resulted in any increase in exceedingly-rare cases of voter fraud. But, instead of encouraging these developments, the Texas Legislature is introducing several measures to restrict voting access and convenience. Taken as a whole, these measures are a transparent attempt to invoke the false phantom of voter fraud to engage in voter suppression. I urge you to vote against these pernicious attempts to restrict voting rights.

Sincerely,

Sylvester Turner  
Mayor